

# Public Libraries

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## The Salary Question\*

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Fundamentally, the amount of salary paid to any person for service rendered should depend upon two facts: one, the cost in money, time, and effort given in the preparation for the service; and second, the nature and excellence of the service rendered.

In dealing with the preparation for library service, we must consider all those elements that go toward making an efficient librarian (other than those we are born in possession of) such as general education (that usually considered academic preparation) special preparation, such as is gained in the special institutions called library schools, extensive travel, wide reading, living in the presence of the culture and the refinements of the arts and sciences, and in the presence of people to whom many or all these things have been habitual.

For the person largely lacking in all these elements little can be said in consideration of a just and fair salary, for, except in the most unusual cases, such persons cannot be worth much as educational leaders and directors and as organizing forces in educational institutions, for the library is distinctively an educational institution and real librarians are educational leaders and directors, else we have no concern with them.

\*Read before the Pacific Northwest library association, August, 1919.

In a profession where the service rendered is spiritual rather than material—where it is of the essence of life and not merely the machinery of living, salary or compensation cannot be measured by the service rendered.

No one can fix the worth of a surgical operation that saves our sight, renders us healthful or saves life itself. No one knows the worth in dollars of the teacher or the librarian who by skillful suggestion turns the boy or girl from the crooked and worthless path to the straight and narrow way that is life itself or who turns life from a monotony of dreary toil to an inspiration and places a halo where otherwise thorns would have pierced the consciousness.

Our only basis, then, for fixing money value to library service after full consideration of the elements of preparation above mentioned is to measure it by other professional compensations nearest of kind.

The closest professional approximation in both preparation and service is teaching, altho varying in many ways from it.

In my judgment, the financial compensation of librarians in smaller cities should range with that of the high school teachers in a department of instruction such, for example, as the department of history or English or mathematics, or the sciences. In the

larger cities, the chief librarian's salary should be at least as good as that of the principal of the chief high school. In the smaller cities the librarian should receive the salary of the head of a department of instruction, and the assistants in the library compare with the assistants in the teaching departments. In the larger cities the head of a library department should compare with the head of a teaching department. These will not be just and fair for all persons, in either institution, but I believe it to be the best basis of comparison now available as these are the two coördinate public educational institutions.

We must remember, however, in making this comparison the question of preparation. We must recall that young people with only a high school education are not taken as teachers into the high schools. So long as we choose to, or must take high school preparation into library service and still consider these persons in the rank of librarians, we cannot claim comparison in salary or popular respect with the high school teacher, and we have no right to expect it.

In Seattle, high school teachers receive from \$1,500 to \$2,100 annual salary, ten months' service. They must be college graduates with successful experience in teaching. Grade teachers in the same city receive from \$1,200 to \$1,470. They also must be experienced teachers.

We must not be willing to claim their salaries unless we are willing to match their preparation.

Our salaries have grown fairly well within the past two years, but not at all in proportion to the cost of living, and not in proportion to compensation with laborers and certain professions who have had full control of their own charges for service.

Of course, we must also remember that salaries are the form of compensation latest to yield to either a rising or a falling market. Persons whose compensation comes from tax levies

find it difficult to obtain ready adjustment because tax levies to meet a given budget must be made at least a year in advance. So our screams must be heard more than twelve months before we can expect the arrival of the relief. In the meantime, slow starvation may ensue. We therefore must be patient and we must be no less persistent in our demands—patient to await the proper tax levy, but persistent that it shall be made.

When our people see the library as an educational institution coördinate with the school and the librarian's preparation at least as extensive and as expensive as that of the best grade of teachers, the problem will solve itself, and justice will result.

Whether we shall reach legitimate results by unions, strikes, picketings, and such similar devices, I seriously doubt. These, it seems to me, are the methods of the trades, and I do not believe they can be adopted as the ethics of a profession without the loss of the *spirit*, and the dignity, of a profession, where service, not goods, is the informing idea.

Salaries may increase or decrease, as all other prices may, but we shall never be able to standardize salaries until we standardize admission to the ranks of librarianship. Just so long as we continue to fill positions with "just anyone" rather than to leave it unfilled, just so long we shall have no standards of admission and just so long salaries will vary greatly and most of them will be the minimum.

All people who work must be permitted to earn a living, but those who are well prepared and are efficient workers must be segregated from the mass and must be paid more than the price of mere existence.

The failure to segregate the fit is the fatal mistake of unions and other organizations whose object is to standardize compensation. In library work it is our business to segregate the fit from the unfit and then we may standardize. When we cannot afford the

just and fair compensation of more than mere existence to employ well trained persons to fill our positions, let the positions go unfilled until such persons can be secured and fairly compensated. So long as library positions can be filled by those not fundamentally well-prepared nor successfully experienced, we are making the most powerful argument that can be made against standardization and in favor of haphazard salary schedules mostly very low. If librarianship is a job that just anyone can slip into of an afternoon and fill it apparently as well as prepared people then we have not a profession—are not even a body of skilled workers with the right to claim or to expect fair salaries.

We all recognize that the temporary employment of even excellently equipped young women who withdraw from librarianship for the highest purpose known to our race is a retarding influence in stabilizing our profession. Infinitely worse is the influence in the profession of those who enter unequipped either by general or technical education.

*When our salary budget, rather than the size of the job shall fix the size of the staff, we shall be on the road to salary success.* A fair salary budget for ten divided among fifteen or twenty will not advance our cause.

The last preceding sentence completed what I had intended to say upon this

occasion upon this subject. Just then my attention was called to what seems to me the most degrading public advertisement that I have ever seen relating to librarianship. There appeared in the *Outlook* and other publications this advertisement. The copy I now read was clipped from the *Outlook* dated August 6, 1919. Listen to it, please:

**"EARN WHILE YOU LEARN"**

Take a position with the — Public Library and join its Library Training Course, where students are paid \$50 per month after one month's experience. No examination necessary. Other positions carrying higher salaries are also open."

I call this degrading because the etymological meaning of that word precisely expresses my estimate—a stepping down of librarianship to the grade and level not only of the unprepared but to that of the uninterested, to those who have not even tasted of the spirit of our supposed profession.

Think, if you can, of our public schools putting forth such an invitation. Apply this plan to any group or body of persons who have permitted themselves to even think of themselves as members of a profession! If this is the direction librarianship is taking, then I am willing that this shall be the last session of the Pacific Northwest Library association!

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The process of book selection usually begins with the actual reading or scanning of the book, supplemented by an examination and checking of reviews. The factor of probable public interest and demand is approximated by means of conferences of department heads and branch librarians most competent by contact with the library constituency to form an opinion. In these semi-monthly conferences a decision is reached as to whether (a) a given book shall be bought; (b) how many copies shall constitute the initial purchase; and (c) to what departments, branches, or other

agencies these copies shall be assigned. An order for sixty to a hundred copies of a new book is rather more frequent than an order for one copy, and, in general, purchases range widely between these two figures. The whole number of new books acquired during the year, therefore, represents the result of critical judgments, carefully compiled and digested, plus an estimate as to probable public demand formulated as above described. There remains the final verdict rendered by the public itself as to the validity of the choice thus arrived at.—*Bulletin of Chicago public library.*

## Certification of Librarians

Henry O. Severance, librarian, University of Missouri, Columbia

We have not yet convinced the public that the library is not a charitable institution. This condition is accentuated by employment in libraries of untrained help, especially in the small public libraries and by the further fact that no standard of qualifications for the librarian in the several grades of work has been adopted by the profession or by the several states.

At first I was considerably embarrassed by applicants who had had no technical training, and who had not so much as a high school education and who were beyond the age and without the strength to perform the strenuous duties of a librarian, but I very soon adopted some standards and insisted that assistants in salaried positions doing technical work must have a preliminary training. Then it was easy to eliminate undesirable applicants.

Every library sets its own standard of qualifications for its employees. The standard of the University of Michigan library may not be the same as the standard of the University of Missouri library. The standard of the public library at Joplin, Missouri, may not be the same as that in force in the public library at Sedalia. In the larger public and college libraries, the work is systematized and there is the catalog department, the reference department, and the circulation department, each of which requires a head or chief with subordinates. The head of a department must have attained to certain educational standards and certain technical training and must possess certain qualities of mind and elements of character that fit her for this specialized work. To illustrate: The reference librarian in a university library would not be sufficiently well equipped who has not had a college or university training. We wouldn't require the same degree of proficiency for librarians in subsidiary positions. In other words there are grades of work in the library requiring different degrees of educational and professional equipment and expe-

rience. We systematize our work and grade it, then classify the service. Our work falls into departments as indicated above; then we must have heads of departments which form one class of assistants. These heads of departments must have helpers which form another class of assistants. The lowest grade of helpers do the clerical and elementary work such as pasting in labels, marking books and the like.

We differentiate the grades of work and require assistants of different degrees of equipment for the several grades. These grades of work and grades of service are not standardized except in individual libraries. Our problem is first to standardize the work in all our libraries and then have certificates issued to librarians who have attained to qualifications sufficient for the work of any or all the grades indicated.

The large libraries are not suffering greatly for the lack of certified librarians, but the smaller libraries are greatly handicapped due to the lack of it. The library boards in small towns have no standard either for the library or for the librarian. The young lady in the local community who is without a job, or who is persistent, or who is a friend of one of the board members, or who has a mother to support, appeals strongly to the sympathies of the board. If we had a system by which libraries supported by taxation must secure a librarian who has earned a certificate, the boards would make fewer mistakes and the library service would be much more efficient.

It is a fact that at the present time there is not a sufficient number of librarians with short training to fill the minor positions. In the standard summer library school the prospective librarian without an appointment cannot enter. Consequently the boards of trustees of the small towns must needs appoint a librarian, then insist that she take training. In our work we wouldn't think of making an appointment before the

applicant had received her technical training. Several young ladies have told me that if I would promise them positions they would take a library course. This, however, is what we are asking our library boards in the small towns to do. The income for library purposes is not sufficient to enable them to secure a highly trained librarian. The salaries are small. The problem is to take a local girl without training or one with a short course such as we offer in the summer library schools. Every time an untrained person becomes a librarian our professional standards are lowered. The university, normal schools and colleges must provide for the technical training of librarians if the state should provide or inaugurate a system of certificates for librarians. These institutions, however, should not be authorized to grant certificates to students completing courses in library science until the courses have been standardized. The same courses should be required in the several institutions for the several grades of certificates. Excellent facilities should be provided and able teachers secured who are graduates of library schools of recognized standing.

We all should be zealous from professional pride to keep our standards high. We have lost a great number of librarians with various degrees of training to the government during the war. Their places have been filled in most cases by lesser trained assistants and some by those having no professional training. Many of those who have gone into national service have had but meagre training and are getting much larger salaries than those better trained who have remained at home. They may argue that a smattering of training will do. There is a tendency here to lower our standards and I think it should be our duty as well as our pleasure to help raise them, not so much from the professional point of view as from the point of view of efficient service. The profession is very frequently judged by the inability of the librarian, who has little training such as a summer course, to do the work of a trained librarian. Frequently boards of trustees and even government officials

are misled by the statement of the applicant that she has been trained at some library school and do not question whether the applicant is a graduate or simply a student in one course or in several courses for a short period. Not long since a university student asked credit at a normal school on a library course which she claimed to have taken in the University of Missouri. In looking up her record I found she had been in my class for three recitation periods only. The simple fact that one has been a student of a reputable library school gives that student a standing with the public whether or not she passed the grades. If certification of librarians were required boards and head librarians would make no mistake on the qualifications of applicants.

It doesn't require the same degree of education and technical equipment to administer a small library of ten thousand volumes as it does one of one hundred thousand. The librarian may have one assistant in the small library and ten in the large. There are a greater number of problems to solve in the large library. It doesn't require a librarian with the same equipment to do the reference work in a small library as it does in a large library or in a university library. It doesn't require a teacher with the same equipment to teach children in the primary department as it does to teach the boys and girls in the high school, nor to teach a rural district school as it does to teach in the higher grades of the city school or to teach special subjects in the high school. The teaching in the rural school is essential but it may be taught by a teacher holding a third grade certificate, while a teacher in the high school must have a first grade certificate. In a similar way we must recognize grades of service in the library profession. In fact we all recognize it but we have not insisted upon a standard of qualifications to be required of librarians to be employed in the several grades of service. Greater progress has been made toward the standardization of our high school library organizations than of our public library organizations.

The National Educational Association

has adopted the report of Professor C. C. Certain of the Cass technical high school of Detroit on a standard library organization for accredited secondary schools. The North central association of colleges and secondary schools had previously adopted it. The schools of this association will try to attain the standard within five years. The portion of the report that is important for this discussion relates to the librarian. According to this standard, the teacher-librarian in the smallest rural high school must have at least a six weeks' course in modern library methods, and the librarian in the high schools of five hundred pupils must have at least a one year course in library methods in an approved library school. She would give her entire time to the library. In larger high schools the librarian's course of training is extended and she should be as well equipped educationally as the high school teachers are, that is she should be a graduate of a college or a university. One thing remains to be done in these states—to inaugurate a system of certification of librarians.

The Committee on Accredited high schools of the University of Missouri have endorsed a standard library organization for the high schools of Missouri which is now in press. The schools are classed by enrollment as follows:

1. High schools with an enrollment of 200 or below.
2. High schools with an enrollment of 200 to 500.
3. High schools with an enrollment above 500.

By this means the schools may become standardized as regards their libraries. It would then become an easy matter for the State Department of Education to apply this standard to the high schools of the state which have already been graded and named first, second and third grade high schools and to secure legislation requiring librarians to secure first, a second or third grade or life certificates as qualifications for service in the several grades of high schools in the state.

Standardization of libraries and the certification of librarians has already been accomplished in the New York high

schools. A one year certificate is given to graduates of short library courses of not less than six weeks, with one year's experience. A three year certificate is given to graduates of short courses with two years' experience. A five year certificate is given to graduates of approved library schools. A permanent certificate is given to graduates of approved library schools after five years of satisfactory service and to library school graduates who are also college graduates.

Wisconsin is also standardizing her high school libraries and requires teacher-librarians who have had at least the training offered in the courses for teacher-librarians at the University of Wisconsin or its equivalent.

If the high school library service of the country can be standardized and a system of certificates for librarians inaugurated, why shouldn't the public and college libraries be standardized and a system devised to indicate the degree of proficiency required for the various grades of service? I think they should be standardized in the sense that the service should be graded. California, in providing a county library law, inserted the provision that county librarians must secure certificates before they are eligible for positions in the county libraries.

The public library is supported by taxation and is a part of the public educational system of the state. It should have definite standards to make it most efficient and to correlate it with the other educational institutions of the state. The libraries and the schools are becoming more closely correlated and when the educational administration has charge of the libraries as in the case of school libraries certification of librarians will become the general practice.

If certification of librarians tends to make our libraries more efficient and if it tends to prevent incompetency and thereby helps to raise the standard of service of the profession, then we all should welcome it and aid it and help to make it a reality. We surely should not leave the initiative in this matter to the civil service authorities or to the educational administration of the several states.

## The Welfare of Librarians\*

Samuel H. Ranck, Public library, Grand Rapids, Mich.

First of all I do not approve of the distinction between librarians and library employees. Of course, I imagine that what is meant is the chief librarian and other librarians, but librarians who are doing what we consider as library work and who are in a classified or trained service (where there is a classified service with training for that service, etc.) should be regarded as librarians rather than library employees. I like to think of my fellow workers in the Grand Rapids public library as my colleagues who are working with me in promoting the service which books—print—may render this community, rather than as employees who are working for the community for a wage, under my direction. We cannot put before the public the idea of librarianship as a profession when we call our librarians library employees, or any other terms that cheapen or belittle the work (or the personality of the people doing the work) in the minds of the public by the terminology we use.

The question of salaries naturally relates to this whole subject, into which, however, I understand I am not to go at this time. I think, however, that the American Library Association should take the position that librarians should be on the same basis as to salary as teachers in the schools with the same amount of educational preparation and professional or technical qualifications. The association should endeavor to set a minimum standard of salary, educational qualifications and training or experience for professional library work. Personally, I have long felt that the greatest handicap to librarianship, both professionally and in an economic way, is the lack of an educational standard for entrance into the work. I regard that

\*A reply to a request from C. H. Milam for an expression of opinion on "what the American Library Association should do to promote the welfare of librarians and library employees."

S. H. R.

as of more importance, for the larger libraries at least, than the so-called formal library training. I should like to see the American Library Association stand for the minimum of education for library work as two years of college beyond the high school, or its equivalent; with the idea that ultimately it should be four years of college work or its equivalent. The idea that persons who do not have even a high school education can take a short course in library training, in a library or in a library school, and then stand before the world as professional librarians is ridiculous, and the sooner the librarians of the country generally as an organization realize that fact the better it will be for the whole status of the work. We have altogether too low an educational standard for admission to library work.

With reference to the question of salaries again, and the thing the American Library Association should stand for, we should not talk about a "living wage"—a term I resent, since it usually implies a mere physical existence. The thing that the association should stand for as a profession is a "growing wage," an income which provides for professional and intellectual growth, as well as the physical well being of librarians. That should be the minimum. A "growing wage" carries with it the idea that a librarian is in the position economically to be able to travel occasionally, to form desirable social contacts on the basis of equality, and therefore have a standing in the community life which such education, experience, and culture receives on the part of persons in other lines of work. In short, a "growing wage" means that a librarian can lead a full rounded life both as an individual and as a citizen.

I live on a farm a good part of the year and love to work in orchard and garden. Every farmer knows that his trees, his plants and his animals must be cared for and properly fed to grow vigorously if they are to be profitable.

The farmer who supplies a "living wage" only for these things is no good as a farmer—he goes broke. People are more important than farm live stocks and crops and a "growing wage" is no less essential. This is horse sense for librarians.

And finally, with reference to the salary question, I do not believe that this matter can be stated in terms of dollars, but rather in terms of relations, for the purchasing power of dollars is different in different parts of the country. (This relationship has already been indicated by putting librarianship on the same basis as teaching.) I know as a matter of fact that I can get more real satisfaction in life in this part of the country where one can live in daily communion with rivers and lakes and the great world of nature, out of \$3,000 than I could for \$6,000 or \$8,000 in New York, or some other places I might mention. Other people, of course, may have a different idea, but that is the way it strikes me. And I know something of the large city from living in it.

The American Library Association has always stood for security of tenure in library positions, with the understanding that the library work and fitness of the individual continued satisfactory and that no question of religion or politics entered into it. The welfare of librarians demands that they be free of all ulterior elements in connection with the conditions of employment or security of tenure. The association should continue to make its position clear on this subject.

The A. L. A. should of course assume, though it may be necessary to define them, proper sanitary conditions under which the work is done—heat, light, air, cleanliness, schedules for meals and for work, etc., which do not sap the vitality of workers. In this connection it may also be necessary to do some educational work as to proper tools and furniture. I believe also that libraries—the larger ones at least—should offer medical inspection

and attention to librarians and all other employees.

Along with the idea of a growing wage the American Library Association should stand for hours of work and holidays that will permit people to grow in their work. This matter, I think may not necessarily be a hard and fast arrangement or one that would apply uniformly all over the country. The question of hours, for example, is quite different in a town where a librarian can live in a garden in which one can work as recreation and at the same time have not over a 30 minute walk to one's library, from the city where the librarian must spend two hours or more daily in travel in crowded cars to or from the library, if the librarian is to live in garden or park surroundings. Hours of work and rest periods are also affected by the character of the library and whether the librarian must handle large numbers of the people, involving a great mental and physical strain, or a small number of people with little or no such strain. Furthermore, monotonous routine which has a deadening influence should be eliminated as far as possible. There should be proper annual vacations which should be taken and used as vacations and not for money-making work of a nature similar to library work; half-holidays, etc., for personal or social things, which all make for the mental and spiritual welfare of workers as well as for health. There should also be a reasonable number of days of sick leave, without loss of pay.

So far as this institution is concerned, where I know we are very far from the ideal, may I refer to one or two things which I think may be suggestive of what seems to me essential in this particular? In addition to the vacations and half holidays for those engaged in regular library work, we allow all of our people 12 days sick leave in the year, without loss of pay, and we allow this time to cumulate from year to year as a kind of insurance against a long illness if it is not used.

We have a case now where one of our librarians has been absent since last July on account of illness but who heretofore lost scarcely any time on that account, and to whom now her full pay check has been coming right along since then.

We also allow four hours a week of library time for attending colleges in the city, which is a part of our plan to encourage mental growth. In this way, a person coming into our service can take two years of a full college course at Junior college, or even more at Calvin college, in library time. Personally I should like to see every member of our staff taking some work of this kind along with their library work. I believe it helps immensely in promoting their welfare and therefore in the quality of their work for us.

Librarians as individuals grow old, and all of us must face the fact that if we live long enough there will come a time when we can no longer "carry on." What prospect for "a cheerful old age" has librarianship to offer us as librarians? Every profession should offer those in it or who think of entering it, an outlook of hope and happiness for the declining years of life. For the great mass of library workers today, for those who are wholly dependent on their salaries, with perhaps others dependent upon them, the present outlook for "a cheerful old age" is anything but cheerful. If one has had the benefit of a growing wage these declining years should be the richest years of life, both for the individual and for those with whom he (usually she in librarianship) is associated. The association should stand for conditions in librarianship which offer a reasonable hope for a cheerful old age. For the association to stand for anything less would be brutal—unworthy of a profession whose business it is to spread among men the great humanizing ideas of all the ages.

How this may best be done is a difficult matter to determine. Were I to set down all my thoughts on this subject I should use up more space than

I have already done in this too long letter. I can only say that personally, as a believer in the brotherhood of man, I favor disability pensions and old age pensions for everybody, and not for particular classes. As society is now organized such pensions are a long way off. I am inclined to think that the best thing within reach is legislation for public service employees' retirement funds, whereby employees in the service of the community contribute to a pension and insurance fund which is administered and safeguarded by the state, something like the War Risk Insurance. Librarians by the very nature of their work and experience in life are usually not fitted to invest money with any degree of safety and advantage. Hence the need of governmental safeguards for that large class of public servants whose work for the community the better it is done is often likely to that extent to disqualify them as financiers for their own last years of life.

I think that the American Library Association should stand for joy in the work as one of the greatest compensations in it. I do not believe any educational work of this kind, or of any kind, should ever be held out to people as desirable as a commercial proposition in which there is an unusual opportunity for accumulating money or property, but rather as an opportunity for service, and therefore that its greatest compensation is in the service itself: in other words, that the joy in the work should be the thing that should ever be held uppermost. This presupposes, of course, an economic basis, working hours, and standards of health, recreation, etc., that allow the proper freedom for this sort of thing, but nevertheless, the main thing to be held up to library workers should be the satisfaction that comes from the work itself. Persons who cannot see this, or are not likely to get satisfaction out of that kind of service, should be discouraged from entering it.

As part of the matter of the welfare of employees (welfare by the way

is a word which I do not like because of the company it has been keeping, for it usually carries with it the idea of patronage rather than of justice) I think that the association will sooner or later need to do some educational work with reference to the teaching of its members how to take care of themselves through the right kind of recreation. A lot of the ills of professional people, I am convinced, are due to the fact that they have never learned the art of living, and until they have learned that art, all other things will be more or less wasted in connection with their giving the best kind of service. By the art of living, I refer to all that group of matters which relate to the methods of regular daily physical exercise, intellectual growth,

spiritual development, etc., which are so necessary in keeping one fit for his work, and at the same time maintain the proper attitude of mind toward life and the world in general. Such an attitude of mind is based on a life that is "inspired by hope and sustained by joy" and is necessary to make our lives fruitful to ourselves, to our friends, and to the world.

These are in a general way my ideas as to what the American Library Association should do in connection with promoting the welfare of librarians; for the setting up of standards which humanize the work in all its relations of life as indicated above, and defending them, will do much to bring them to realization. As an association, we can do no less.

### Flaws in Book-Wagon Service

Margery Quigley, librarian, Endicott, N. Y.

As spring draws near, many small libraries will probably consider operating book-wagons. As far as I know all reports on this form of extension have been favorable but vague. I think that there should be set down a detailed statement of the cost other than the initial one and of the attendant difficulties with the simplest form of book-wagon, the book-case mounted on a truck. Personally I do not consider the difficulties sufficiently arduous to discourage many libraries from embarking on this work. They ought however, to be recognized before undermanned or otherwise inadequate staffs undertake such an enterprise. If a library is strong enough to engage in playground work, it can take on a book-truck, incidentally getting better results for the same effort.

The costs to be definitely reckoned with other than the original equipment and the operating of the car are these: Costly follow-up service and a disproportionate loss of books: clerical work the day after the trip: lifting, packing and shelving of books before and after

each trip: loss of time to the library or to the assistant when weather conditions spoil a trip.

In general I should say that the difficulties parallel those which librarians find when they engage in play-ground work, except that most of the disagreeable features of playground work are multiplied several fold. Most of them come about because the book-wagon is always pressed for time. A certain route must be covered before darkness settles down: and darkness comes on earlier every night. We tried lengthening our working time by using electric lights on the book case but such an arrangement was of no help. People either cannot see the wagon as it goes by or they have gone to bed.

A book-wagon also profits neither borrower or library when people cease to sit outside because of cold or even of rain. Cold nights work havoc with the health of the assistants. After trips on the cold October evenings to collect overdue books, we had three cases of serious illness from chill and exposure.

Our route took in two types of borrowers. One group lived practically in the streets or in such poor gardens as they had. They were dwellers in tenements or in the cheaper working-man's residence. The second class owned their own houses and felt too conservative to wait for the wagon on the side-walk. When it rained we had to ring their doorbells: for if by chance we skipped a house or were prevented by the weather, next morning we received scoldings over the telephone.

We had no fixed points of call, tho we stopped regularly in front of certain groceries, barber shops, and apartment houses. There was no way in which we or the borrowers could calculate the time at which the truck would reach a given point. Borrowers would go to the corners which they knew we would pass sometime during the evening. Often they waited until discouraged and went away. If many people on a block beckoned to us from their porches or called to us to stop, we did so. On the same route the next week, possibly no one would call. We would reach Mrs Pezzula's corner, for example, half an hour sooner than we had the week before and Mrs Pezzula, who wanted to see us greatly, would not have returned from the "first show."

We had our worst troubles with the weather. There is no way to tell when a storm is coming up. As a result, part or the whole of the trip has to be abandoned and the "time" given the library by the assistant is cut down by several hours. The assistant, too, is often drenched to the skin. The borrowers also suffer. We did not often have helpers enough to make readjustments in the schedule and the wagon would frequently be in use on another route when the staff was sufficient. If the elements were unfavorable on the nights assigned to a particular street, a reader sometimes had to wait two or three weeks before the wagon passed his house.

We made several minor discoveries about the assistants on the wagon:

that continuity in office is desirable for any given route and is particularly hard to maintain in the summer when vacations make continual changes in the schedule;

That because of the constant readjustments trips were not successful when in charge of an assistant whose work was in any way characterized by rigidity.

That the chauffeur is a possible source of trouble. If a man in no way connected with the library runs the automobile, he is apt to reprove the children or to advise the men who come out for books. If an assistant plans to run the car, has she a license and are you complying with the terms of the insurance policy?

We also found a curious and general tendency—assistants tried to circulate too many books in order to beat the record of an assistant on some other route or urged people to take several books rather than stop and make a decision and delay the wagon. Personally, I think that if ever there is a place where library service should be leisurely and afford opportunity for conversation between borrower and library assistant, it is here.

On the technical side, experiment showed that it was impossible to register borrowers or to make out readers' cards at the library the following day and distribute them on the next trip. We were forced to charge by name and address in the very districts where housing conditions and lower standards of civic responsibility made this most inaccurate. We could give no consideration to guarantor or previous black-listing. We often could not understand how a man spelled his name; when we asked him to write it on the charging card and omitted verification of spelling, we were usually not much better off.

We tried to charge according to the Newark system but we found that it was impossible to discharge also while the wagon was in operation. As the books were turned in we had time only to set them on the shelves. If a man

wanted a book which his neighbor had just returned or even one returned at another point on the same trip, we hurriedly made out a rough duplicate of the book card from the information found on the book pocket. One dummy and one regular book card for the same book were therefore outstanding until we could reconcile them and destroy the dummy the following morning. The clerical work of the next day was large, taking never less than two hours. There were circulation statistics to be made up, dummies to be eliminated and the last charge added to the original book card, and cards to be filed.

We had to do away with the arrangement which makes overdues appear automatically. The elimination of dummies and the search for books requested for delivery on the next visit depended for speed on alphabetical order.

Because of the irregularity of our trips we did not charge fines. We sent out sporadic overdue notices when we were sure books had been out a month but the notices were not effective because there were so many possibilities of error. We paid follow-up visits for books in special demand and called repeatedly on the most flagrant cases, but where the population is shifting and the people live in tenements, it is almost impossible to find a delinquent borrower. Calls for overdue books are not inexpensive.

At present, out of a total circulation from the book-wagon of about 3,600, we still have 150 books which have not been returned because no follow up visit has yet been paid the borrowers of them.

The problem of overdues is obviously quite different where the families own their own homes or live rather permanently in one place. We needed to make only one trip in our better neighborhoods to secure the books after we discontinued our automobile service.

When working in a foreign neighborhood it is easy to overestimate the importance of interpreters. On our

first trips, we took children with us who spoke some language in addition to English. In districts where five or six languages were represented we tried to take a corresponding number of children with the attendant sorrows of overcrowding. In a few days we were spending a disproportionate amount of time settling quarrels between children who wanted to ride and only incidentally act as translators. We saw that the grown people tended to talk to the children in a foreign language instead of trying to express themselves to us in English. The children liked to appear all-wise and often gave misinformation without our knowing it. Certainly after the first day or two there is no great need for interpreters, especially if one is anxious to make English the common language. News about the book-wagon flies fast.

We did not own enough books to withdraw a definite group from the shelves for this summer use. A fixed collection of books for the wagon would not have been very useful to us if we could have had it, as the demands of the routes varied greatly. This meant that we reshelfed part of the books after each trip. We did not find the wear and tear from this constant handling appreciable, however. We did discover, however, that the longer a book remained in the home the worse it was for wear. The baby usually wreaked his vengeance on it or the oil can fell over and saturated the pages. It seemed as if every time a book stayed in an Italian family a month, it came back covered with some kind of batter. I remember a case of a woman who presented me with a large bunch of wilted wintergreen in place of the last three pages of a novel. The book had been around the house so long that the baby had torn out the ending. The mother said she guessed no one would care, that she had read the book and the end did not make much difference.

The book-wagon, while synonymous with change and disappointment, is not

all petty annoyances and mistakes. We operated a book-wagon three evenings a week during the past summer and have obtained a large branch from our Board as a result. Having profited by experience we plan to run the "bus" next summer in a different district.

The book-wagon has been featured in "Parnassus on Wheels" and in the meetings of various state library associations as a great agency for uplift in the rural districts and in Americanization work. From my own rather brief experience, I can say that no one of these reports has in any way overestimated the value of this work to book-wagon borrowers.

In addition there has been an equally great value to the library itself. In the first place, it keeps the circulation up in the summer, a period which is especially unpleasant to the librarians of small libraries. In my own library, for example, our circulation statistics during summer days were never more than 60 or 70. In two hours and a

half we sometimes circulated 150 books on a book-wagon. Our average was usually around 100.

The development to the assistant is also valuable. She sees homes which she would never see and makes many friendships—far more intimate ones than those that come over the charging desk. As one assistant said, "I cannot reckon up the number of cups of coffee I have had to drink on the evenings when I go for books."

Then if a library desires publicity it certainly gets all the publicity imaginable from having a book-wagon. The local newspapers ring with praises, the conservatives and the radicals discuss its merits. Even its hideous sign attached to the top of the wagon makes it as effective as if it were a beautiful float in a parade. Best of all, it reaches people who are unable to go to the library—shut-ins, persons who live at such a distance that they cannot contemplate a visit, and those who have never before given the library a thought.

## In the Letter Box

### The Small Library

Dear Editor:

My idea for many years has been that the small library has not had adequate representation in association and conference meetings—we really are in the predominance. As a result of several chats with Miss W., I have been asked to get in touch with other librarians and try and get our problems considered. It is since my attempts—and failures—that I realize that the oversight has not been intentional, perhaps, but more the result of lack of response. I would like to see PUBLIC LIBRARIES try to spur on and create more of a professional spirit among the librarians of small libraries. This is *sub rosa*, but I found a more or less general disinclination on the part of the librarians to discuss or endorse the standardization plan and

the objections put forth were given under a misapprehension, I feel confident. The objections were not "professional," and it is that spirit which I would like the PUBLIC LIBRARIES to undertake to create or strengthen. Of course, I have in mind the librarian who is not a regular graduate of a library school.

As a group of workers, we have not a large enough vision, do not put the ultimate good of the library over our personal views or fears. The professional journals are full of this larger outlook and vision but somehow, it does not seem to stir us up. Perhaps my intercourse with other librarians has been too intermittent to justify this assertion, but I am judging from my visits with associates in the work while attending the State Association meetings. Anyway, I am not speak-

ing in criticism but only to elucidate my wish that we all might be imbued with a realization of our really "high calling." You see, I love my work and realize its opportunities—alas, that I cannot begin to realize them!

C. W. D. V.

Shall we not pass on the suggestion in this letter to librarians?

#### Questions About Questionnaires

In a letter in *School and Society*, January 10, Mr E. W. Butterfield, Commissioner of education of New Hampshire, says:

The young superintendent, eager as we all are to promote truth and to aid in proper scientific inquiry, is often puzzled to know what to do with the many sheets of serial questions which come to his desk. In my opinion, the following is a fair statement. He should carefully answer inquiries as follows: a) Those of the Federal Bureau at Washington or the Department of Education of his own state; b) those prepared by brother superintendents of his state and others in whose judgment he has respect; c) those which deal with subjects in which he has a particular interest and on which he wishes further information; d) those which promise an effective addition to scientific knowledge.

I am weary of questionnaires—both those which I do not answer and those which are not answered for me.

MARIE MILER.

#### Democracy in A. L. A.

One of the statements made in regard to the suggested constitution was that the Executive Board ought to have full power to speak for the association, that situations might arise when there would not be time to deliberate with the members of the council before taking action. Membership in the council should be a mark of distinction given to individual members of the association for special reasons, and the Executive Board ought not to be tied down by waiting for the result of deliberations affecting the policy of the association.

This is such a direct change from the spirit of democracy that I hope it will not prevail in the final decisions.

W. J. WITHERS.

#### The Same Book

Feb. 2, 1920.

To the Editor:

Page, Victor, W., Questions and answers relating to modern automobile design, construction, driving and repair. . . . 1920, revised and enlarged edition. N. Y. The Norman W. Henley Pub. Co., 1920.

On receipt of this book and comparing it with 1919, 1918 and 1917 editions, we find them all exactly the same, this edition carrying the copyright date of 1917. Answering an enquiry as to the title, the publishers say:

"We beg to advise you that the 1920 edition of the Automobile question and answer book is the same as the 1919 and 1918 edition, hence any copies of this book you have on hand bearing these dates are the last edition of this book published. We expect, however, in the middle of this year, to make an entirely new and enlarged edition of this book, at which time the book will probably be entirely reset."

This information is sent forward with the intent that other libraries will be advised as to the facts.

Very truly,

PURD B. WRIGHT,  
Librarian.  
Kansas City Public Library

In a recent visit of William Allen White (Mr White spent much time in Europe during the past year) to one of the big libraries of the country, he spoke most enthusiastically of A. L. A. service to the soldiers overseas.

"There's a job that was one hundred per cent perfect! I heard soldiers growl about everybody, from the President of the U. S. down. I heard them kick about the "Y" and the Red Cross, and pretty much all the other welfare agencies. But I never heard a kick or a growl about the A. L. A. Everywhere in France I saw A. L. A. books and the boys reading them. The work at Beaune was wonderful! I'm for the A. L. A."

**Efforts to be Helpful to the  
A. L. A. E. P.**

With a view to promoting the enlarged program of the American Library Association, the St. Paul Public Library club plans:

**Library service**

1. To complete as soon as possible the library survey of the city which has already been begun.

2. Define more exactly the standards of library service and the educational requirements and compensation for each grade of service.

3. Increase the number of publications giving information as to the resources of the libraries of the city and give wider and more frequent publicity to the activities of the several libraries.

**Coöperation with local organizations**

4. Coöperate with the officers of the several organizations and institutions interested in the extension of library service in hospitals and similar institutions, especially to the blind.

5. Coöperate with the St. Paul Institute, the colleges and high schools and women's clubs in giving citizens larger opportunities for higher education.

6. Coöperate with the Chief Naturalization Examiner, the schools, civic and labor organizations, and with shop and factory managers in promoting education for citizenship, especially among those of alien birth.

7. Coöperate with the St. Paul Association and other business organizations and with business houses and industrial establishments in giving citizens larger opportunities for study of business and industrial questions.

**Coöperation with county, state, etc.**

8. Coöperate with county officials in extending county library service to all parts of Ramsey county.

9. Coöperate with state officials in extending library service to all parts

of the state, especially to lumber camps and other frontier districts, and to hospitals and other state institutions.

10. Coöperate with federal officials in the extension of library service to all federal offices in St. Paul.

I question whether inquiries sent out by national or state associations should not receive equal consideration; indeed, I wonder whether consideration should not be limited to official questionnaires.

No amount of inquisitorial activity of this character will take the place of professional study and experience, and, on the other hand, any questionnaire having general or scientific value should not only be formulated in the light of professional experience but the results of it should be made available to all members of the profession.

I hope that this question of questionnaires will sometime receive the consideration of the Library Association.

W. DAWSON JOHNSTON.

**Omission**

Free Public Library,  
Worcester, Mass.

To the Editor,

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

My dear madam:

Owners of the new *Eminentium Universitatum et Scholarum Index Generalis* might do well to look for errors of omission. For instance, our city of Worcester with its Holy Cross college, founded in 1843, Worcester Polytechnic institute, 1865, and Clark university, 1887, is entirely omitted. While our perspective for judging our own home-town may be somewhat warped, we believe that a city of 180,000, containing among its educators, Dr G. Stanley Hall and Ira N. Hollis might fairly deserve admission to this index.

Yours very truly,  
ROBERT K. SHAW,  
Librarian.

Monthly—Except August  
and September.

# Public Libraries

M. E. Ahern, Editor

6 No. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

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Subscription	\$2 a year	Current single number	25 cents
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By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under.

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Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if requested to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Contributions for current numbers of *Public Libraries* should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

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## Help the Ex-Soldiers and Sailors

**A** LETTER from the Treasury Department, office of the Surgeon General, asks for assistance, thru the libraries and other public activities, in making it known to discharged and disabled soldiers that they are entitled to help and free treatment under laws which are in force at the present time. Information at hand seems to show to the Bureau of Public Welfare service that men who are entitled to this help have never fully understood the provisions of the legislation supplementing the war-risk insurance act. The department has prepared plenty of printed material which makes plain to those who need it most, what the Public Welfare service is especially anxious to do for those who need it and particularly for those who deserve it. Li-

brarians would be perfectly within their legitimate lines in asking for this printed material and placing it in their libraries where it would come under the notice of visitors. It might be well to place on the bulletin board, statements calling attention to what the library had in this line and further, to have the local newspapers print whatever extracts from this printed material that might seem fitted for the locality and the occasion. This is after-the-war work that is perfectly legitimate for libraries to do. Its work is primarily the distribution of printed material and especially putting it under public notice where otherwise it might not be seen.

Help the government help the disabled soldiers.

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## The Foreign Newspapers

**N**UMBER two of the *A. L. A. Blue Letter*, issued weekly by the committee on the enlarged program, calls attention to the lack of consideration of the needs of the millions of foreign born citizens. The letter contains a plea for providing the foreign born

with proper books that will make them feel the friendliness of the people among whom they have come to live. It also urges a generous use of foreign language publications. This latter point will bear additional emphasis. Whatever may be done for the English

reading public, librarians should see to it that very frequent, if not constant use is made of the newspapers, in foreign languages setting forth the opportunities offered by the library, and the friendly readiness of those connected with this educational insti-

tution, to supply the needs and meet the desires of those who expect to stay in America. The editors of these publications are, almost without exception, ready and eager for all the help that they can have.

These are important points of contact.

### A Worthy Precedent

THE California teachers' association has taken an advanced step in organizing a teachers registration bureau where those who wish to secure either teachers or positions may learn of the availability and conditions surrounding teachers and places. This is a movement to be highly commended in itself, but especially so because of its relation to the state organization of teachers. This should insure fair, unbiased, intelligent service to those who need it. Library administrations will do well to watch its development.

Sometime, and soon, the A. L. A. will have something of the kind. The calls for assistance in library circles have been foozled for many years, by attempts of persons unacquainted with the library conditions under consideration, unacquainted with the personal qualities and equipment of the library workers under discussion and many times, moved only by selfish interests in proposing candidates or offering positions to library workers. Under the enlarged conditions of usefulness upon which the A. L. A. has set its ambitions, there will be available for library workers, a department in Headquarters for registered workers and for extending opportunities which in itself will justify the cost of A. L. A. membership, even if in addition a registration fee is charged.

In answer to a question of one in authority in a discussion of things that ought to be done to enlarge the value of A. L. A. Headquarters, and especially the idea of a "clearance department" the following answer (in substance) was made:

There ought to be in the Headquarters of the American Library Association one person with sufficient clerical help, to care for the unchartered sea of the labor market in library circles. The one at the head of this should be broad minded, unbiased, devoted to the work as well as fair to the applicants. The person in charge of this should be delegated to visit large library centers, attend state library meetings, participate in round tables, and in every way keep in touch with the flux of library service, to the end that he may use the right person for the right place, and direct the stream of applicants both for service and for servitors to the better administration of library service.

There should be a charge for this, even though the service is in the A. L. A. headquarters. This would prevent disposition on the part of some people to "go a-fishing" and will invest the whole thing with a dignity and appreciation that otherwise might not attach to it.

Such an unbiased department ought to be a real service in the hands of an honest, well informed ambitious person, whose intentions would be set on the greatest good for the cause.

The progress of the California Teachers Registration Bureau will be watched with interest in the hope that helpful professional ideas for librarianship may be gathered from it.

### The American Legion and Libaries

**M**ANY of the library workers who had the great privilege of serving their country thru the camp libraries, both in the United States and abroad, felt that the one thing which the library world should do when the war was over was to conserve and develop the interest which the service of books had created for itself in the minds and hearts of the A. E. F.

Nearly every other organization that entered the military zones in other than the military garb was subject to criticism of one kind or another more or less biting, according to the humor or mood of the speaker, except the A. L. A. It is not unlikely that under their breath and on the aside there were occasions when individual instances or persons may have roused a feeling of momentary resentment in private or in officer. But, as a general thing, it can be said that the book service in the army and navy was always a welcome one to the boys under military rule.

Over and over again, those who were closest to the problem expressed the hope that when everyone was back home again that this interest in the use of books might continue for the good of the individual, of course, but as often as not, in the hope that the individual would carry into his community greater appreciation of the use of books in the business of living and intelligent, growing life, than had been the case before. A number of those who felt most keenly on the subject were in the hope that the American Library Association, thru its officers, would extend their major effort in securing the good will and the interest and the help of these returned soldiers

for the libraries in the several communities. And as the soldiers banded themselves together in the American Legion, these hopes grew. Those in charge of affairs see things somewhat differently but still there are many who count it the first and most necessary thing for the A. L. A. as an organization to do, and who as librarians are striving to attach the A. L. to their libraries.

In every community, village, city and state, if not in the nation, for the next ten or fifteen years at least, those in places of power, official and political, will listen to what the soldier boys in the American Legion want done. The history of the effort to use the G. A. R., sad as it is, is too close at hand to the vast majority, for anyone not to think that what the American soldier who was in the World's great war wants done for the next twenty years will be the thing that is done. It is impossible to think of a town board, a city council, a state legislature or even Congress itself, showing indifference to an expressed wish for a community service expressed by the American soldier.

It is a cause for real rejoicing to those who carried the hope of securing for library service the continued interest of the returned soldier to find that all over the country today, posts of the American Legion are expressing their views in regard to the memorials which grateful people are contemplating for the fallen heroes and in recognition of the safe return of those at home. It is a great satisfaction to find these boys over and over again asking that the form of this memorial be not crumbling stone or disintegrating mar-

ble, but that libraries, the best of their kind, open and free, be inaugurated where none existed before. That libraries already existing be extended and supported in a larger degree than has been done before.

Newspaper reports of the community houses receiving from the boys either requests that a library may be installed or gifts in order that it may be installed are growing and repeating themselves in many, many places. In Cincinnati it has enveloped the whole community, and people who never before thought of the library are saying yes to the requests of those officers of the American Legion who insist that if Cincinnati gives a memorial it shall take the form of a library building and equipment worthy of such a city as Cincinnati.

Here is where a campaign might be

inaugurated for which everyone could work, heart and soul. The organizing ability of those who like to do that sort of thing would find ample scope in meeting more than half way if necessary, those returned soldiers who know what they would like to have, but who because of reasons which can be imagined without being mentioned, need leadership and opportunity to make their wishes articulate. Librarians the country over might be urged to become alert, to waken to instant activity at the least indication of interest in the library, and its work on the part of these returned soldiers. No library board, no city council will dare say no to their request for larger opportunity thru larger means and more workers towards making the library touch every part of every community all over the country.

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#### Noblesse Oblige

**R**ECENTLY a library in a very prosperous city of 45,000, which was paying \$2300 to its librarian, found itself in a position to engage a successor to this librarian who was going into a distant part of the country to serve another institution. It may be questioned as to how the mind of the departing librarian worked when her recommendation to the Board was that they should offer \$1500 to her successor, as the sum which the library was able to pay, at the same time naming several good librarians as able to do the work.

Professional ethics, municipal conscience and personal integrity all seem to have been involved to a degree below par in such an action as this. Is it not so?

Speaking of positions, a favorite way of securing a librarian is to ask if the individual addressed is interested in making a change. There is no offer made of the position. The one approached is not able to say to her Library Board, "I have been asked to go to a certain place at an increased salary," giving the library a chance to meet the advancement offered elsewhere. If such a one speaks of the matter to the library authorities, oftentimes she is induced to prevaricate by saying that the position has been offered, in order to bring the matter before her board at all. On the other hand, it often happens that one who is well satisfied with the position she occupies, and, even for an advance in salary would not go elsewhere, uses

her offer to go elsewhere as a forcing process to have her salary boosted. Here again a question of ethics is in-

volved. Some day the situation will be so clarified that these things will not happen. Is it not so?

### British Library Legislation

It is to be expected under the new library legislation which has been secured for England and Wales, that the libraries in those countries with the serious attention which has always been given to them by their boards and librarians, will shortly assume a very much more effective part in general education than they were able to do under the previous small rate which the law allowed them for maintenance and growth. It is a matter for serious regret that the Irish and Scottish libraries were omitted from the application of the law. The accounts concerning

the libraries in these parts show that they are on the verge of bankruptcy, and one, at this distance at least, can see no good reason for the failure to make the application of the new law general. It is inconceivable that the English libraries should rest satisfied with their own larger opportunities in the knowledge that just over the borders others quite as much entitled to the larger opportunity were suffering because of its withholding.

But the start towards extension of opportunity has been made and without doubt many things will be added.

### A. L. A. Meeting for 1920

A protest from a college librarian about the time set for the 1920 A. L. A. meeting, the first week in June, being inconvenient for school libraries was received by PUBLIC LIBRARIES. The question was forwarded to the New York Headquarters with request for a statement that would answer not only this particular college librarian but other librarians who might be questioning the time of the meeting. A letter from Mr. Utley states:

The first week in June is the only time we can go to Colorado Springs. I pointed out the fact that we appreciated the inconvenience of this date in the announcement which I made in February PUBLIC LIBRARIES. If we are going to Colorado Springs, we have got to go the first week in June, and there is no possible use in opening up a discussion as to the date. Our hope is that librarians, by having knowledge of date sufficiently far ahead, can arrange home plans so as to tie up their vacations to the end of the conference. Most of the national parks and other scenic

places open the first or the middle of June so we could just about connect with these resorts. Mr. Hadley and I went carefully into the matter of date before reaching a decision, and made the plans accordingly.

Signed, G. B. UTLEY.

### Women Novelists

What is to be learned about the women novelists of today? This question is answered in a most interesting way by Grant M. Overton who has compiled a volume in the Modern American Writers series on "The women who make our novels." He has tried to include in the book all the living American women novelists whose writing by the customary standards is artistically fine or has attained a wide popularity. He finds 35 in all and with the help of the authors themselves, their publishers and others he gives us an account of the personality and method of work of each in turn, picking out the points of special interest in such a way as to make the work very enjoyable reading, though we may not always agree with his opinions. The book fills a long-felt want as no previous work we know of covers the ground so completely and it has been extremely difficult to find any material at all in print about some of the women included.

### Libraries as Memorials

The American legion of London, Kentucky, is raising a fund for a memorial library to Laurel county soldiers.

Plymouth county, Illinois, is establishing a community house at Plymouth. Co. G., 8th Regiment, Illinois Reserve Militia voted to donate from the company fund the sum of \$500 to equip a library and reading room.

It is an idea of considerable interest that the soldier memorial proposed for Cincinnati take the form of a library building. Added interest lies in the fact that this project is backed by the American Legion in Cincinnati, while some of the citizens (interested in special corners, perhaps) seem to want a shaft or arch or some other crumbling thing. Judge Marx of Cincinnati, who was across seas, was wounded several times and gassed, first suggested the idea of the library. He is a man who doesn't give up easily and it may be that his idea will finally carry. Considerable interest has been worked up in the city on the subject. Judge Marx has prepared a number of lantern slides showing a fine library building, suggesting mural decorations by leading artists, as special memorials within the library, etc., and is presenting an address on the subject as occasion offers.

Coupons have been running for several weeks in the papers asking for expression of opinion and up to date the library idea is in the lead. However, there is a certain élément which still quickens to the idea of a shaft, and it remains to be seen whether the notion of a memorial in the shape of something living and vital, or one in cold stone that crumbling, leaves no record, will prevail.

A bill was introduced in the Virginia legislature providing \$25,000 to purchase medals for all Virginia service men, as a token of appreciation of their service in the world war. At the meeting of the Executive committee of the American legion, department of Virginia, resolutions opposing an ap-

propriation for that purpose were adopted. The opinion was expressed that more medals than were obtainable at present were not desired by the men. And that that amount of money could be spent to better advantage. The Executive committee, which is composed of representatives from each of the ten Congressional districts of the state, expressed its appreciation of the motives that caused the bill to be introduced. Further action by the Virginia department was the unanimous endorsement of a bill providing for the establishment of a system of public libraries in every county, city and town of Virginia to commemorate the sacrifices made by Virginia's men and women in the world war.

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### Helps for and from Ex-Service Men

A most interesting feature of library service is that of collecting the picture postal-cards which the Ex-Service men in many cases collected in their overseas experience. The librarians have provided postal-card frames, with removable backs in which to display the cards, so that it is possible to change the pictures from time to time.

In some cases the Ex-Service men have been asked to give little talks on the pictures that have been given to the library, and in this way there is an interest developed on both sides that may lead to future benefit for all concerned.

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### A Survival from Other Days

An interesting situation is that which has developed in Kansas City, Missouri, on the question of teachers' salaries which are no different from those prevailing throughout the country. The public library system of Kansas City is administered by the board of education. In answer to the appeal of the teachers for an increase in salary, the board of education recognized the need and stated that they were prevented by lack of revenue

from granting so large an increase as was asked for, and that the constitutional provision prevents the school tax rate going above the present figures. Whereupon the teachers came back with the proposal that the public libraries of the city be closed and that the money which was expended for them be used to increase the salaries of the teachers. Needless to say the proposal did not meet with universal approval, even among the teachers.

The *Kansas City Star* in speaking of it suggested that probably there were some activities which should be curtailed until a way could be found to provide more revenue, but added that the elementary and high schools and the library may be regarded as fundamental necessities.

#### Salary Increases

The trustees of the Brooklyn public library have increased the rate of pay as follows:

Grade 1. Minimum, \$ 600 to \$ 840 minimum.  
 Grade 2. Minimum, 780 to 1,020 minimum.  
 Grade 3. Minimum, 1,020 to 1,260 minimum.  
 Grade 4. Minimum, 1,320 to 1,560 minimum.

The library of the University of Pennsylvania has just announced advances in salary which will increase the annual budget by about \$4000. The whole staff is benefited by the advance with the exception of the librarian, the assistant librarian and a few of the latest recruits. The library is now struggling with the greatest volume of business in its history. The monthly circulation of books is about 50,000. There are at present two or three vacancies in the lower grades of the service.

ASA DON DICKINSON.

The Chicago Public Library Board at its budget meeting in January completed the revision of the salary schedules begun in September, 1919, but extended only to the lower grades at that time. The entire scale has now been raised in amounts aggregating from fifteen to thirty per cent in salaries up to \$1,200 and from fifteen to ten

per cent in salaries above that figure. The total amount added to the annual payroll by this action is close to \$100,000. The payroll for 570 persons amounts to \$565,000, which is over 60 per cent of the entire budget for the year.

#### Junior assistants

Group A .....	\$ 780
Group B (after six months in grade) .....	840
Group C (after one year in grade) .....	900
Group D (after two years in grade) .....	960
Group E (after three years in grade) .....	1020

#### Senior assistants

Group A .....	\$1080
Group B (after one year in grade) .....	1140
Group D (after three years in grade) .....	1260
Group E (after four years in grade) .....	1320
Group C (after two years in grade) .....	1200

#### Principal assistants

Group A .....	\$1380
Group B (after one year in grade) .....	1440
Group C (after two years in grade) .....	1500
Group D (after three years in grade) .....	1560

#### Head assistants

Group A .....	\$1620
Group B (after one year in grade) .....	1680
Group C (after two years in grade) .....	1740
Group D (after three years in grade) .....	1800
Group E (after four years in grade) .....	1860
Group F (after five years in grade) .....	1920

#### Division chiefs

\$1980-\$3300.

Among the Romans, who had a keen sense of material values, it excited no surprise that in the slave market an expert librarian, philologist, and literary critic sold for less than a winning charioteer or a popular pantomimic dancer. So no one should be surprised when Colonel Huston of New York pays \$125,000 to Mr Frazee of Boston for the release from contract of Babe Ruth, the Home Run King; even tho Columbia had to pay no such sum to the University of Chicago for the release of an eminent professor, nor did the Scots get anything like it for letting a distinguished and beloved preacher of the gospel come to New York. The famous Ruth is a personage of considerable worth to the lessee of his services; and, however much money the New York baseball club may have paid for him, it will doubtless make an adequate profit.—*N. Y. Times*.

### Appeal for Funds for the Enlarged Program

The following named librarians have accepted appointments as regional

directors in the coming appeal for funds to be made by the American Library Association to carry on the work outlined in the Enlarged Program:

Region	States	Regional director
New England	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut.	Charles F. D. Belden, Public library, Boston, Mass.
Middle Atlantic	New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland.	Miss Mary L. Titcomb, Washington Co. Free library, Hagerstown, Md.
Southeastern	North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia.	Duncan Burnet, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
Middle Southern	Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee.	Dr. T. M. Owen, State librarian, Montgomery, Ala.
Central	Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia.	Charles E. Rush, Public library, Indianapolis, Ind.
North Central	Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota.	Clarence B. Lester, Free library com., Madison, Wis.
South Central	Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado.	Willis H. Kerr, State Normal school, Emporia, Kansas.
Southwest	Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona.	Elizabeth H. West, Public library, San Antonio, Tex.
Middle Pacific	California, Nevada, Utah.	Milton J. Ferguson, State library, Sacramento, Cal.
Northwest	Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming.	John B. Kaiser, Public library, Tacoma, Wash.

FRANK P. HILL,  
Chairman, Committee on A. L. A. enlarged program.

### Distribution of left-over books

For the most part, the State library commissions or the State libraries where they are prepared to do so, have been appointed in the several states as the agencies thru which the war books, left over after the camp service, are to be distributed or circulated in the various parts of the country. A few other institutions have been named also in localities where it seemed wise to use them. These latter include:

Arizona University library, Tucson, Arizona;

Public library, Little Rock, Arkansas;

Wilmington Institute free library, Wilmington, Delaware;

Public library, Jacksonville, Florida; A. L. A. librarian, American Red Cross Headquarters, Washington Artillery hall, New Orleans, La.;

Public library, Meridan, Mississippi;

University of Montana, Missoula, Montana;

State University library, Albuquerque, New Mexico;

University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota;

Miss Mary R. Cochran, Ohio library association, Public library, Cleveland, Ohio;

State library, Columbus, Ohio; South Carolina University, Columbia, South Carolina;

State library, Nashville, Tennessee;

State Department, Archives and history, Charleston, West Virginia;

Wyoming State library, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The following librarians of affiliated organizations have been added to the committee on enlarged program:

George S. Godard of the National association of state librarians.

John H. Friedel of Special Libraries association.

Frederick C. Hicks of American association of law libraries.

Julia A. Robinson of the League of library commissions. (Grace E. Kingsland acts when Miss Robinson is unable to attend.)

**Publicity**

A letter from C. H. Compton, chairman of the Publicity committee for the A. L. A. enlarged program, calls on the librarians to aid in his publicity work. Material for magazine stories, write-ups from librarians who are able to do that sort of thing; interest created among magazine editors and illustrators and newspaper articles, are all names of avenues through which assistance may be given. A series of slides will be manufactured and distributed for use of speakers and motion picture shows. Librarians will be kept informed with regard to the work thruout the whole field, by means of the work of the weekly *A. L. A. Blue Letter*. Further suggestions as to the work are invited.

**Books for blind soldiers**

Number 3 of the *A. L. A. Blue Letter*, issued January 31, makes an appeal for library service for the blind; for the soldier blind first, and for the civilian afterwards. Attention is called to the fact that there are 75,000 blind in the United States; there are less than one-half dozen libraries for the blind worthy of the kind in America; that England, with only 35,000 blind, has facilities for printing far superior to the United States; that there are no newspapers for the blind in the United States; the A. L. A. in coöperation with other agencies should publish an increased number of books in the new uniform type; librarians should undertake to secure type standardization, in order that the literature of the world may be open to the blind; a blind person who has learned to read on one type if he is compelled to move must learn to read a new type, as various types are used in various states. The A. L. A. has obtained \$5,000 within the last few months from leading authors for their books for the blind and has produced 26 of the 40 books now available in braille, grade 1½.

Books for the blind are carried free by the U. S. Government post anywhere in United States, both to and from libraries.

**Transactions of the Executive Board of A. L. A.**

The Executive board of the A. L. A. transacted considerable business during the mid-winter meeting, of which the following are important parts:

The report of the treasurer showed: Receipts, January 1 - December 29, 1919, \$26,540. Expenditures \$21,035.

The receipts, February 10-December 20 from the A. L. A. War Service fund \$5,081. Unsuitable books, magazines, waste, sold, \$8,266. Sale of buildings and equipment \$11,537. Miscellaneous sources \$5,262.

Total receipts \$31,099; expenditures \$15,306, leaving a balance of \$15,703.

The report was accepted and audited.

The next annual conference of the A. L. A. will be held at Colorado Springs, May 31-June 5, 1920. Second special meeting of the A. L. A. will be held at Atlantic City, April 29-30-May 1.

The following nominating committee was appointed: Samuel H. Ranck, chairman, Mary Frances Isom, Theodore W. Koch, Charlotte Templeton, Frank K. Walter.

Mr Milam presented his resignation as member of the Publishing Board, which was accepted. Miss Edith Tabbitt was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Mr Milam's resignation.

The committee on enlarged program met by invitation with the executive board. It was voted to eliminate the recommendations under "national library for Canada." Approval was voted of the budget of \$2,000,000 as presented by the committee on enlarged program.

A committee on national library service was appointed to consider matters on that subject. C. F. D. Belden was made chairman.

Carl B. Roden, treasurer of the A. L. A., submitted his resignation which was accepted with regret, and suitable resolutions were adopted.

By vote, at the request of the War Service committee, the work of that committee was taken over by the executive board.

A committee of five was appointed to consider the subjects of standardization, certification and library training, and report at the Atlantic City meeting. Members of this committee were: Frank K. Walter, A. S. Root, Alice S. Tyler, Caroline M. Underhill, and C. C. Williamson.

### Naval Libraries

On November 1, 1919, libraries in the larger Naval and Marine stations, hospitals and navy yards were transferred from the American Library Association to the Navy department. The responsibility of the American Library Association for the personnel of such libraries ceased on that date, and was assumed by the Department.

In October, the Bureau of Navigation, sixth division, communicated with the commanding officer of each unit in which the American Library Association was maintaining a librarian, inquiring if the continuation of the services of a trained librarian was still desired. In every case the reply was in the affirmative.

In addition, since November 1, six additional units, which up to that time had not been provided with trained librarians, requested such librarians. Five of these requests were granted, the sixth being refused, owing to the small personnel of the unit.

The following changes and additions have been made in the personnel of the Navy librarians since November 1:

On December 1, Miss Isabel DuBois, formerly of the New York public library, succeeded Louis W. Horne as librarian at Hampton Roads operating base. Miss DuBois was succeeded on January 1, by Arthur R. Blessing, formerly assistant librarian of the Public library of the District of Columbia. Miss DuBois returned to the Bureau of Navigation, sixth division, as assistant to the library specialist.

Miss Rosamund McIntosh, a graduate of Pratt Institute library school, succeeded Miss Helen Harris as librarian at the Naval hospital, Norfolk, Virginia. In addition to her work at the hospital, she is also organizing the libraries in the Norfolk navy yard and marine barracks.

On December 1, Miss Helen D. Brown,

formerly of the John Crerar library, a graduate of the New York state library school, succeeded Mrs L. W. Horne as assistant librarian at Naval operating base, Hampton Roads, Virginia.

On November 1, Miss Louise Gold, of Camp Mills library, succeeded Miss Jemison as librarian of the hospital, Naval operating base, Hampton Roads, Virginia.

On account of the closing of the Naval hospital, Grey's Ferry Road, Philadelphia, Miss Mary Lingenfelter was transferred to the library of the Navy yard, Philadelphia, January 15, 1920.

Miss Myrtle Sette, of the Chicago public library, was appointed to organize the libraries at the Naval training station, San Francisco, California, located on Goat Island.

Mrs Blanche D. Lyman, formerly of the Brooklyn and Cleveland public libraries, has been appointed to organize libraries in the Thirteenth naval district, with headquarters at Bremerton, Washington.

Ralph M. Dunbar, formerly of the Brooklyn public library, has been appointed Field representative, with headquarters at New York City.

In almost every case of change, letters have been received from commanding officers expressing appreciation of the work done by the librarians at the various stations. The following is a typical letter:

The Commanding Officer wishes to express his entire approval of the excellent work done by Miss ..... as librarian, during the short time she has been here. She has shown a thorough knowledge of her duties; has worked hard on a difficult task of rearranging the library, and has been at all times most cheerful and obliging.

It is with regret that the Commanding Officer loses her services here.

The books and funds from the American Library Association have made possible not only a continuation of libraries at naval stations and hospitals pending government appropriations, but also an extension of the work into territory not fully covered before.

Librarians can be of great aid in Navy library service by suggesting the best or most practical books on a given subject, and by passing information to officers and men that requests for books and periodicals will be welcomed by the Bureau of Navigation, sixth division, if received thru commanding officers. An effective service can be

rendered by loaning to large stations, books not in great demand or books too expensive to be purchased by the said library.

### The Traveling Bookbinding Exhibit

The Bookbinding exhibit is again available for use in library schools, training classes, normal schools, and in any libraries where it may be desired.

The exhibit, which illustrates approved methods of library binding and mending, has been completely revised, and is fitted compactly into a small metal box which is easily shipped, the receiving library paying express charges from the last point.

So far the itinerary has been arranged for almost continuous dates until April 6. Applications should be sent to Miss Mary E. Wheelock, Public library, St. Louis, who will arrange as far as possible for special dates as desired to illustrate lectures on binding and for state and district meetings.

### The Usual Way

A review of the work of a public library for 20 years, by one who had charge of the institution during that time closes as follows:

With a building whose exterior and interior attract the attention of all visitors, with a museum and a collection of books unsurpassed by any library in the state, the community has great reason to heartily appreciate the fact that no city has a better opportunity for obtaining the best there is in the realm of books.

This library may not be as modern as some other libraries that have levied higher taxes for up-to-date appliances, equipment and display, paid much higher salaries and employed catalogers, assistants and helpers, which would have lightened my burdens, but which have been foregone in order to administer the library within its income without the sacrifice of its efficiency. With the increased levy of taxation for the support of the library and increased salaries for the new librarians, the public will expect the library to be open both forenoon and afternoon, as is customary in other cities.

At the close of my administration, I wish

to acknowledge the kindly appreciation of the public and patrons, the co-operation and support of the board of directors, as well as the faithfulness of my untiring and efficient assistant, who has resigned.

### Rare Books, Perhaps Unique in America

The John G. White Collection of Folk-Lore and Orientalia, owned by the Cleveland public library, has just acquired an interesting volume, the *Tractatus Astrologiae Iudicariae* of Luca Gaurico, published at Nuremberg in 1540. With it is Antonio de Montulmo's *De Iudiciis Nativitatum*, of the same place and date. Both are rare books, but are even more interesting for the binding which encloses both.

This binding is of calf. The front cover has seven compartments, each representing a Biblical scene, four of which are dated 1540. The centre panel has the word *Astrologica* and ornaments stamped in gold, and below is a large coat of arms with the inscription: *Insignia Sigismundi Antochii ab Helfenberg Artiu. Lib. Magistri.*

The back cover has a border of eleven compartments representing Biblical scenes, three of which are dated 1540. In the centre panel are medallion portraits of Hus, Luther, the emperor Charles V, and Melanchthon (the last dated 1539). The portrait of Charles V is particularly good, showing clearly the famous Hapsburg lip. At the date of this book all except Hus of the characters represented were still alive; the present volume shows that even during their life-time their portraits were used as ornaments for bindings.

A great financier of New York, who recently retired from business at an age when most men are engrossed in it, gave us his reason that he "wanted time to think." He said, "We are in the most interesting time in history. Men of large affairs are, as a rule, too busy looking after dollars to pay due attention to the problems now before the world. This is a dangerous situation."

### A Survey of Conditions

Addressed by Pratt Institute school  
of library science to its graduates

It has been the custom of the Pratt Institute library school for some years past to collect statistics of salaries, hours and working conditions generally, from their graduates at three yearly intervals, and for the past year we have felt the need of fresh data very keenly to answer the stream of questions concerning the salaries to be asked or paid for work of different types and grades that have poured into the office. We knew that library salaries were going up—there was every indication of that—but at what rate, how comparable to salaries in other lines of work, and the ratio of increase in the different types of libraries were all unknown quantities. Our questionnaire, asking the title of present position, how long held, kinds of work comprised, present salary, when and how much increased, hours a week required, additions to educational equipment, and membership in library organizations, was sent out early in October. By the end of November enough replies—about 300—had been received to base the work of analysis upon. About 50 replies came in too late to be incorporated in the first result, but I am glad to report that only 17 of our graduates, or about 1/27, failed entirely to respond. Events move so rapidly nowadays that already the number of salary increases reported would considerably modify the totals did time permit of a general revision, but these must go over to swell the averages of the census of 1922.

With respect to salaries, the 1919 statistics show the general average for all Pratt graduates to be upwards of \$1,463, with a median or middle salary of \$1,380, an average increase of \$299, and a median increase of \$300 or 32 per cent over the figures of three years ago. The average salary has hitherto gone up at a rate of about \$100 each three years. In 1907 it was \$879, in 1910 it was \$939, in 1913, \$1,081, in

1916, \$1,174, and in 1919, \$1,463, or 67 per cent more than 12 years ago and 32 per cent more than three years ago.

A further analysis shows that the salaries in public library service have increased at a higher rate during the three years past than in either special or educational libraries. The salaries of the 37 graduates who are librarians of public libraries average \$1,700, which is an increase of 27 per cent over 1916; 24 librarians of special libraries average \$1,778 or 20 per cent over 1916, and the 37 in educational libraries average \$1,471 or a gain of 25 per cent over three years ago. While the average is higher in special libraries the range is greater in public libraries, \$3,100 being the highest salary reported for special libraries in October (the some have already gone over that figure), while there were five public library salaries beyond that amount.

It is gratifying to find that the heaviest percentage of increases comes in the lower grades of salaries. Librarians' salaries have increased 28 per cent but the average salary for children's librarians is now \$1,247, an increase of 33 per cent, and that of general assistants, \$1,180, an increase of 43 per cent. These salaries are all too small, that is evident, on comparing them with the government standards, but they show that the rate of increase is highest where it is most needed, and compared with the 23 per cent increase shown in a recent monograph on high school teachers' salaries, it is not discouraging.

This tendency to increase the lower salaries is also shown by the fact that while there were 58 salaries below 900 in 1916, there are only 5 today, and each of the five are tied down to a given locality and could easily earn more were it possible for them to move. There were only 62 salaries below \$1,200 in October, 1919, while in 1916 there were 157. At the other end of the scale, in 1919 there were 34 salaries over \$2,000, while in 1916 there were only 12.

In response to the question about recent salary increases, 198 responded that they had their salaries raised within a year, 67 had taken new positions with advanced salaries within that time, 13 more had had raises within two or three years, and only 23 had had no increase since 1916.

To sum up the salary situation we find:

(1) That library salaries have advanced materially during the past three years and especially during the past year.

(2) That public library salaries, while lower on the average than special library salaries, have advanced at a higher rate of increase.

(3) That educational library salaries are both lower on the average and have increased at a lower rate than public library salaries.

(4) That special library salaries, while having a higher average than public library salaries, have not the range of public library salaries and have not increased at so high a rate.

(5) That the highest percentage of increase has been among the lower grades of service.

Among other deductions to be drawn from the facts collected is that the hours of service required by libraries is slowly decreasing. The weekly average for public libraries is now 40 hours and 48 minutes (tho a larger number of libraries reported 42 hours than any other figure), for the educational library 38 hours and 40 minutes, and for the business library, 38-30. A larger number than ever before reported that they were on no time schedule, 38 in public library service, 17 from educational libraries, and 9 in business libraries. This shows a growing recognition of the fact that people in positions of responsibility should be free to plan their work without the restrictions of a *per diem* schedule.

As in 1916, questions were asked about membership in library organizations. Only 40 of those reporting belonged to none, while 262 belonged to

at least one library organization (excluding our own Graduates' association and local staff organizations), and 208 of these to the A. L. A., 172 belong to two or more, and 69 to three or more organizations. The average salary of the 40 who belong to no organization is \$1,242; that of those who belong to at least one is \$1,677.

It was interesting to see how few of the graduates did any kind of work exclusively. Only 30 did cataloging alone, while 131 did some cataloging in combination with other work. Only 8 did general reference and 5 special reference work alone, but 147 did some general reference work and 32 some special reference work. Seven did nothing but executive work, while 96 had some measure of executive responsibility. No one spent the whole time selecting books, but 90 reported book selection as comprising part of their work. Only 86 persons did any one thing continuously, and 57 reported that they did practically every kind of work there was.

Cataloging still leads as being the kind of work done by more individuals, the record being as follows:

Cataloging is done by....	161	persons
Other record work.....	26	"
General reference work...	150	"
Special reference work....	37	"
Adult circulation .....	132	"
Children's work .....	103	"
Book selection .....	90	"
Order work .....	48	"
Organizing .....	44	"
Instruction .....	19	"
School department work..	8	"

The case is still strong, it seems to me, for a general, all around training embracing cataloging, reference work, book selection, and the major subjects taught in the library schools. This contention is also brought out for our own school by the fact that we have 134 graduates in public libraries, 47 in educational libraries, and only 51 in business and special libraries, despite the strong drift in the latter direction, so that we would not as a school be

justified in spending a large part of our time in discussing the particular problems of special libraries. Public library service is largely standardized, but the 51 graduates in special library work are in such different kinds of libraries, as business, scientific, industrial, financial, theological, medical, historical, art, municipal research, each with their highly specialized problems, so that to cover them all in a one-year course would be hopeless. We have, however, included this year more lectures on the administrative problems of some of the leading types of special libraries than hitherto.

On the whole the outlook would seem to be distinctly favorable, and I hope librarians will both individually and collectively spread wide the fact of the improved conditions. It will require some effort to overcome the prevailing impression that librarianship is a pauper occupation, but it should be done and it must be done before our depleted personnel can be recruited.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE.

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### As to the Enlarged Program

#### II

The greatest needs of American libraries in the direction I have indicated are books available to the student and scientific investigator living away from the large library centers. The inter-library loan system that has been greatly developed of late years has been a great boon to just this class of students. Libraries having large collections have in general freely helped them by loaning books needed by them, though there are some notable exceptions to this. The extended use of photography has helped some in the case of books that could not be lent out. But the gaps in the collections of our libraries are still very large. The number of important scientific works that cannot be found in this country is still considerable. It is hoped, of course, that this in time may be rectified. But the collections of even the large libraries need sup-

plementing. A lending library for libraries has many times been suggested, a library that should make a point of collecting just the classes of books that libraries are not inclined to lend out or which are of so specialized a character that even large public libraries hesitate to buy them. In the latter class belong old and scarce books, large and expensive sets of serials or collections; to the former the large number of textbooks and monographs which are in constant use in the libraries possessing them and which the average and smaller and even some of the larger public libraries cannot afford to buy.

Such a library has already been in existence in London for three years. It has a grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, supplemented by private subscriptions. Its income during the same time has been: from the Carnegie Trust £6300, from subscriptions £1604/16/4. It specializes in History and Sociology and supplies to students, study clubs and libraries, books in these fields costing 5s. or more. It has already circulated 18,621 volumes.

To establish such a library would mean a considerable fund and a long time to develop. Next in usefulness to having such a collection would be the collected and detailed knowledge of what actually is to be found in American libraries, large and small, of special collections and special books, by a union catalog of the important resources of this kind, together with the printed catalogs in book form that several libraries have published, supplemented by extensive and detailed notes on special collections, not only of those that now exist, but to be completed from time to time as libraries grow and special collections are secured or created. It would be within the possibility of the A. L. A. to secure the necessary funds to establish at its Headquarters such a collection of information and to place it in charge of a small staff of two or three well-trained persons

headed by an experienced librarian. This staff should not only be ready to answer such questions as may come to Headquarters from time to time, but should be regularly at work to anticipate needs of scholars, by preparing lists of books that are not to be found in this country, such lists to be sent to the libraries most likely to be interested in the purchase of them. The members of the staff should also be engaged in direct bibliographical work of a specialized kind, to some extent in coöperation with workers in the larger libraries of the country.

My proposal, therefore, is this:

That a union catalog of and other data about important scientific and literary works in American libraries be collected at the A. L. A. Headquarters and placed in charge of a reference librarian with one or two assistants.

That this staff be ready to give information about the resources at hand in various parts of the country and be actively engaged in bibliographical work in the interest of learning.

That in connection with this an effort be made to start a lending library for libraries, consisting to begin with of such books as are so much used in the libraries possessing them that they cannot be lent out under the inter-library loan system, but planned to include gradually other large and expensive works, thus supplementing the inter-library loan system.

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The above was written before the called meeting of the A. L. A. in Chicago. There it transpired that the campaign for the fund would not cost \$105,000, as at first estimated, but only \$75,000; further that the Committee on Enlarged Program already had in sight about \$1,000,000. The estimated cost of \$75,000, therefore, would be used in getting only half the sum for which it was at first estimated that \$105,000 would be needed. It seems a large

amount of money to be spent in getting money *to be spent*, for it should be kept in mind that the money the Committee wants is intended to be spent in three or four years, and according to a plan that to many members of the A. L. A. seems ill advised. The general temper of the Chicago meeting was somewhat uncertain, but decidedly doubtful as to the wisdom of the plan. So much is certain, that the doubters would feel much more satisfied if the Executive Board and the Committee would be content with securing the million already in sight and to use this as an endowment fund, in the interest of libraries and their patrons, in accordance with some such plan as the one outlined above; if not that plan, some other plan that takes into consideration real needs. That the needs of learning are quite real no one will deny who has had occasion to observe actual conditions. These needs are none too well cared for in American libraries. The reasons are well known and are by no means anything to be ashamed of. But the time has certainly come for the national association of American librarians to take the lead in caring for the needs of learning and scholarship and the satisfying of those needs thru libraries. In this connection it would be desirable that some university librarians be nominated at the coming election of members of the Executive Board.

AKSEL G. S. JOSEPHSON.

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Do you know that there is absolutely nothing under heaven that can keep you from thinking pleasant thoughts? So all the time we are busy stamping books, or hearing some one haggle about a fine, nobody need know the beautiful purple light that our thoughts are throwing on all around us. But by and by if we live in thoughts with beautiful lights long enough, we shall begin to recognize here and there the pink and lavender and wonderful blue lights of thoughts of others!—*Indianapolis Staff News Letter*.

### A Proposal for Library Association Editions of Standard Works\*

One of the most curious features of the printed matter which issues yearly from the press is that, while an enormous amount of modern rubbish is being written and published, a great many older books, many of them of classic status, are permitted to remain out of print indefinitely, or are only obtainable in cheap and nasty form, or in unsatisfactory editions.

It is not necessary to give examples; every librarian could mention off-hand books which have worn out in his own library, for which there is always a demand, but which he is unable to procure. This is so especially perhaps in the matter of children's books and novels, but it is also true of more serious work.

A good deal of Jules Verne has been out of print for many years, and what is in print is in cheap and unappetizing form; yet I think I am right in saying that there is, or would be, always a demand for Jules Verne, many of whose scientific romances, to my mind, have a more lasting appeal than the much more elaborate stories in the same field of Mr H. G. Wells.

If one had the time, it would be an interesting and, I believe, a startling thing, to make a list of books of permanent value which are not in print. As, however, I am addressing an audience of librarians, I need not labor this point.

The question of unsatisfactory editions is a much larger one. Most books, as a matter of fact, are unsatisfactory in their format.

I suggest that the Council of the Library Association should go to a publisher, not wholly given over to the purely commercial aspect of his trade, and say something like this to him:

"Mr Publisher, we are the Council of the Library Association; we repre-

sent all the public libraries, and all the other libraries that are worth while, throughout the country. We find that such and such a non-copyright book is out of print, and has been out of print for a long time. There is a demand for this book in our libraries, a constant demand. We want you to republish it in a form, as regards paper, type, binding, and get-up generally, exactly on the lines which we shall lay down. The edition will be called the Library Association edition, and it will be stated that it is to be issued at the request of the Library Association and under their conditions as to its production. We will guarantee a certain sale to the public libraries, a sale which will be enough to pay the expenses of the edition and to give you a reasonable profit on it. What you print beyond that will be in relation to the probable outside demand."

Now that, I believe, is a business proposition, which is not likely to be turned down by a go-ahead and intelligent publisher. It would be best probably to select for the purpose of the initial experiment, a children's book. If the first experiment was successful, as I see no earthly reason to doubt it would be, we could then go to other books of varied character.

By this means we should not merely secure an edition which would satisfy library requirements, but we should make the recommendations of the Book production committee operative. We should set an example which, sooner or later, would have its effect outside the particular editions issued at the request of the Library Association. We should do a service to the general reader. Once the book purchaser knew that in the case of certain standard works there existed a Library Association edition, he would buy that in preference to any other, supposing, of course, that he wanted the best and was prepared to pay for it, because he would know that every detail of it had been carefully considered by experts.

I have spoken of out-of-print books and unsatisfactory editions, but my

\*Read before the Southport meeting (English) September, 1919, by J. Stanley Jast and printed in *Association Record*, December, 1919.

suggestion has a bearing upon the sometimes equally difficult problem of choosing between a large number of competing editions of the same work. In a case like this the Library Association might set its official imprimatur upon one of these editions, the best, and give the happy publisher permission to use their name. How many editions of "Robinson Crusoe" are there on the market? The ordinary purchaser, even the librarian, cannot see the whole of the editions. It would be a distinct advantage to be able simply to order the edition approved by the Library Association.

The great merit of this suggestion is that it requires no formal bond or coöperation among the public libraries. The Council could, without very much trouble, forecast the approximate library demand, and they could depend undoubtedly upon the libraries seeing that it was to their own interest to support the publication approved by their own association.

The Library Association, of course, would have no commercial interest whatever in the venture. Their part would begin and end in securing that a book which ought to be in print and is not is obtainable in the market, and in an edition which mechanically and otherwise is worthy in itself and suitable for library use.

I said at the beginning of this short paper, that the suggestion I had to make had big possibilities. I see no reason at all why it should not develop naturally into more than a machinery for providing good editions of existing works. Interesting and useful as it would be to compile a list of out-of-prints, it would be still more interesting and useful to compile a list of subjects on which there is either no book written at all, or no good book. Why in such cases should not the Library Association approach some competent person to write the book, and act as an intermediary with the publisher to arrange for its issue, the book also in this case bearing the name of the Library Association?

We shall all agree that there are far too many books on some subjects, and far too few, or none at all, on others, equally or perhaps more important. Even if the association's work ended with the printing of a list of books which ought to be written it would have considerable value.

#### What a Library Does for a Town

1 Completes its educational equipment, carrying on and giving permanent value to the work of the schools.

2 Gives the children of all classes a chance to know and love the best in literature. Without the public library such a chance is limited to the very few.

3 Minimizes the sale and reading of vicious literature in the community, thus promoting mental and moral health.

4 Effects a saving in money to every reader in the community. The library is the application of common sense to the problem of supply and demand. Thru it every reader in the town can secure at a given cost from 100 to 1000 times the material for reading or study that he could secure by acting individually.

5 Adds to the material value of property. Real estate agents in the suburbs of large cities never fail to advertise the presence of a library if there be one, as giving added value to the lots or houses they have for sale.

6 Appealing to all classes, sects and degrees of intelligence, it is a strong unifying factor in the life of a town.

7 The library is the one thing in which every town, however poor or isolated, can have something as good and inspiring as the greatest city can offer. Neither Boston nor New York can provide better books to its readers than the humblest town library can easily own and supply.

8 Slowly but inevitably raises the intellectual tone of a place.—*Selected.*

One lives one day at a time. The past is gone—forget it. The present is here—use it—tomorrow may never come.

### Library Schools

#### California state library

During the month, several outside lectures of interest have been given. A. C. Olney, State commissioner of secondary education, gave a talk on the needs and possibilities of high school library work. Everett R. Perry, librarian of the Los Angeles public library, outlined briefly the results of his investigations of public library budgets. Mr Pease gave a most interesting lecture on the development of music. Mrs Margaret S. McNaught, State commissioner of elementary education, spoke on the possibilities for co-operation between libraries and rural schools.

On January 21, the students were afforded the privilege of a trip thru the Southern Pacific shops. The shops in Sacramento are the most extensive on the Pacific Coast, including almost countless activities from the plating of silver to be used on the dining cars to the actual construction of the powerful engines. The trip gave a wonderful picture of a modern industrial plant.

Vivian Gregory, '15, was married on January 22, to Philip Smith of Woodland. Mrs Smith will continue her work as assistant at the California state library for some time.

Marion Morse, '17, secured a first grade county library certificate at the recent examination conducted by the State board of library examiners. Miss Morse is librarian of the Kings County free library, Hanford.

#### Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh

Students interested in the book trade will be given an opportunity to do practical work in the book shops of Pittsburgh. This experience will be counted toward the required number of hours of practice work.

Miss Clara W. Hunt, superintendent of the Children's department, Brooklyn public library, lectured December 13 on Children's work in the Brooklyn public library.

Mrs Herbert Sill, instructor in public speaking, Carnegie Institute of Technology, is conducting the course

in public speaking in the library school in the absence of Miss Euphemia Bakewell, who, because of illness, is unable to take charge of the work this year.

Arthur L. Bailey, librarian, Wilmington Institute free library, Wilmington, Delaware, gave three lectures on bookbinding, February 6 and 7.

Lutie A. Beggs, '17 formerly children's library, Lincoln library, Springfield, Illinois, has been made extension librarian of the same library.

Margaret A. Fife, '17, has resigned as children's librarian of the Public library, Canton, Ohio, and is now assistant in the acquisition department, Harper Memorial library, University of Chicago.

Esther Friedel, '15, has resigned as librarian of the public school, Bisbee, Arizona to become assistant children's librarian of the Public library, Portland, Oregon.

Alice Goddard, '03, has been appointed assistant to Miss Gilson, Service superintendent of the Clothcraft Shops, Cleveland, Ohio.

Agnes M. Cuffe, '18, children's librarian, New York public library, died of pneumonia January 27, 1920, in New York City.

Marion B. Phillips, '16, was married to Frank Howard MacKnight, January 28, 1920. At home cards announce 17 Mifflin street, Wilkinsburg, Pa., after March 1.

Josephine H. Thomas, '12, has resigned as chief of the children's department and school librarian, Public library, New Haven, Conn., to become children's librarian of the Public library, Pasadena, Calif.

SARAH C. N. BOYLE,  
Principal.

#### Los Angeles public library

The open courses planned for persons already in library work as well as for the regular students of the school proved very successful. Librarians from Massachusetts, New York, Seattle and from the Middle west and California have registered for the six weeks of lectures, and library visits. The special lectures are grouped in four courses, Administration, Library work with children, Special libraries and Art reference work. The fundamental lectures in the administration course are given by Zaidee Brown, of Long Beach, as in previous years, with supplemental lectures by other successful librarians. Community co-operation

in Alhambra was discussed by Theodora R. Brewitt; Publicity and library service by Jeanette M. Drake of Pasadena; Publicity in San Diego by Althea H. Warren; and Every librarian her own university by Sarah M. Jacobus of Pomona. Dr Bogardus and Dr Hunt of the University of Southern California gave the background for an understanding of the library as a social agency by their lectures on the literature of present day social and economic problems.

In the special libraries course various types of libraries are described by Elsie L. Baechtold. Katharine D. Kendig, formerly in the American Telephone Company library in New York City and Althea Warren, formerly librarian of the Sears Roebuck company spoke of their experiences. Scientific libraries were described by Elizabeth Connor of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory library and the publications of scientific societies by Dr St. John of the Research division of the observatory. Motion picture libraries were explained by Elizabeth McGaffey, librarian of the Lasky Film Corporation and C. J. Van Vliet talked about the charging system and other special devices in the Krotona Theosophical library. Visits were made to the Solar observatory library in Pasadena, and to the Edison Company library which has an excellent electrical collection, and to Barker Brothers, where the welfare and research types of special libraries are combined in its books for employees' recreational reading and books on furniture and interior decoration. The afternoon spent at the Lasky studio and Krotona is becoming a delightful school tradition, as Mrs McGaffey makes it possible to see the romance of picture making as well as the library, and the hospitality of Krotona and the beauty of its gardens are proverbial.

MARION HORTON,  
Principal.

#### New York public library

Semester examinations for the first half of the year 1919-20 took place on February 5-7. The four-week period of field work began on Monday, February 9, and will continue thru Saturday, March 6. Assignments have been made to the reference and circulation departments and to the Municipal reference branch of the New York public library, and to the libraries of the Russell Sage Foundation and of the National City Company.

The list of visiting lecturers since last writing has included Arthur Freeman, president of the Einson Litho Company, New York City, and C. H. Compton, of the staff of the Enlarged program of the American Library Association, both of whom discussed library advertising; Carl H. Milam, who told of the Library War Service; Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, who spoke upon the topic "School libraries and mental training"; and W. O. Carson, Inspector of public libraries for the province of Ontario, who gave a lecture descriptive of the libraries and library conditions in Ontario.

The open course in book selection, which meets on Thursday evenings and to which all persons interested are invited, is commanding a generous attendance on the part not only of librarians but of men and women representing the book trade. The schedule for February consists of an hour devoted to fiction, led by F. G. Melcher of the R. R. Bowker Company, with contributions by Will D. Howe, of Harcourt, Brace & Howe. Miss Corinne Bacon, editor of the H. W. Wilson Company's *Standard Catalog* series, and by E. L. Pearson and Stephen Hannigan, of the New York public library; an evening with books for new Americans and foreigners, presided over by John Foster Carr, director of the Immigrant Publication Society, with a contribution by Miss Kate Claghorn, formerly connected with the New York City Tenement House department; and a discussion of modern

European literature, by Miss Mary Ogden White, associate editor of the *Woman Citizen*.

Mabel L. Abbott, N. Y. P. L., '11-14, assistant in Seattle public library, resigned. Appointed assistant in library of the Montana college of agriculture and mechanic arts, Bozeman.

Edna B. Gearhart, N. Y. P. L., '13-15, assistant in library of McGraw-Hill Co., Inc., N. Y. C., resigned. Appointed an assistant in Research division of American City Bureau, N. Y. C.

Margaret B. James, N. Y. P. L., '17-19, appointed librarian of Townsend Harris hall, College of the City of New York.

Lurene McDonald, N. Y. P. L., '16-18, appointed librarian of the New school for Social Research, N. Y. C.

Gertrude Olmsted, N. Y. P. L., '12-13 (Library school of the Carnegie library of Atlanta, 1910), accepts position as cataloger for New York Genealogical and Biographical society, N. Y. C.

ERNEST J. REECE,  
Principal.

#### New York state library

Regular school exercises will give place from February 27 to April 7 to the usual month of field practice work followed by the library visit. Three of the smaller public libraries of the state, at Cambridge, Fairport and Glens Falls, will be reorganized by members of the class in library extension under the direction of Miss Hall, the state organizer. The other assignments include the public libraries of Boston, Cleveland, District of Columbia, Endicott, N. Y., Northampton, Mass., Minneapolis, New York City, Rochester, Springfield; Brown and Columbia University libraries; Vassar and Wellesley College libraries; the Brooklyn Girls High School library and the Engineering Societies library, New York.

The library visit will begin on March 30 and include visits to libraries in Springfield, Northampton, Hartford, Boston and Providence.

Five special lecturers were heard at the school during the past month: Mrs Corinne Roosevelt Robinson on Theodore Roosevelt as a bookman; Dr Arthur E. Bostwick on The library and the locality; Mr W. O. Carson on Library budgets; Miss May Massee on

the *A. L. A. Booklist*; and Miss Mary L. Sutliff on Cutter's Expansive classification with some comparisons with the Dewey decimal and the Library of Congress classification schemes.

The plans for a summer school have been formulated. Full information will be sent on request to the Registrar.

#### Pratt institute

The parallel courses of lectures on the administrative problems of public and special libraries have continued and have provided much of interest by way of comparison and contrast. Following upon Mr Walker's lecture on the library of an industrial corporation came a delightful talk by Miss Anna Burns of Haskins and Sells on the library of a business house, one by Miss Mary C. Parker, librarian of the Federal Reserve Bank on the classification and care of bank files and records, and a talk by Miss Susan A. Hutchinson of the Brooklyn Institute museum on the museum library, while Miss Hackett's discussion of the small public library was succeeded by a presentation of the medium-sized library by Mr H. L. Hughes of Trenton and of a large library system by Dr Bostwick. Both Mr Hughes and Dr Bostwick dwelt at length on the organization of the staff, and their talks supplemented each other admirably.

Mr W. O. Carson of Toronto gave two talks on February 3—one on Canadian libraries and a most practical one on the elements of the library budget and the service the community should expect for a given expenditure, bringing out clearly the ratio between money spent for salaries and for books with the returns in circulation.

The annual luncheon of the Graduates' association was held on January 30. Several graduates from out of town were present, including Miss Edith Tobitt of Omaha and Miss Evelyn Blodgett of the University of Washington library. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Mrs Flora De Gogorza; vice-president, Miss Julia F. Car-

ter; secretary, Mrs Chester H. Tapping; treasurer, Miss Ruth E. Wellman.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,  
Vice-Director.

**University of Washington**

Miss Lutie Stearns, who is lecturing in the state of Washington under the auspices of the Washington association for the promotion of health and efficiency, addressed the senior class February 9, on "The next step in library work," emphasizing the need of awakening general public interest in the resources and service which libraries afford. On February 16, she spoke on "Library commissions and county libraries." Miss Stearns' enthusiasm is inspiring and contagious.

Mrs E. E. Severns (Ruth Reynolds, '16) has resigned her position in the Yesler branch of the Seattle public library to join her husband in New York city.

Dorothy Grout, '17, has entered the Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh, for the second semester, specializing in children's work.

Shirley Skewis, '19, has accepted a position in the circulation department of the Tacoma public library.

W. E. HENRY,  
Director.

**Western Reserve library school**

The course in book selection has been re-arranged because of the illness of Mrs Julia S. Harron, who is in charge of this course. She is now convalescing at her home in Penn Yan, N. Y., and it is hoped she may be back in the Spring to complete her course. Meantime lectures on special classes of books have been given by Mr G. O. Ward, Miss Ruth Wilcox and Miss Sargeant-Smith of the Cleveland public library.

The month of December was of special value to students interested in work with children, because of the two visiting lecturers,—Miss Clara W. Hunt, superintendent of the children's department of the Brooklyn public library and Mrs Gudrun Thorne-Thomson of Chicago. Miss Hunt gave three lectures, the two at the Cleveland public library being attended by the chil-

dren's librarians and others of the staff, as well as all the students. Miss Hunt's clear and sincere manner of presenting her subjects, together with her thorough knowledge of her special field, convinced all her hearers that her first subject—"Library work with children, does it pay?" could only be answered in the affirmative. Mrs Thorne-Thomson gave the students delightful proof of the "Value of story telling" both in her lecture on that subject and in her story telling.

The members of the class of 1920 feel especially honored that one of their number, Miss Loleta I. Dawson of Davenport, Iowa, was chosen by the U. S. Shipping Board to christen the new S. S. Davenport, launched at Philadelphia, February 6. She gave a most interesting account of the experience on her return.

The second semester began Monday, February 9, with two additional students enrolled, Miss Lydia M. Barrette of Jacksonville, Ill., and Miss Clara B. McJunkin, Butler, Pa. Mr Root's course on the History of the printed book began with the semester and Prof Black began his new course of lectures on Principles of education.

Recent changes of positions of graduates are:

Marian E. Comings, '06, librarian, Burnham library of architecture, of Chicago Art Institute.

Ethel M. Knapp, '07, County normal instructor, Michigan State Board of library commissioners.

Nellie G. Sill, '15, cataloger and assistant librarian, Cleveland museum of art.

Lillie C. Lilliequist, '16, extension assistant, Public library, Chisholm, Minn.

William McC. McKee, '17, librarian, Cleveland museum of art and assistant curator of prints.

Emma M. Boyer, '18, librarian, Hydraulic Steel Co., Cleveland.

Elvira Charlton, '18, died in Oak Park, Ill., January 31, 1920, of pneumonia.

Clara H. Findling, '18, first assistant, library of Price, Waterhouse & Co., accountants, New York City.

Ida W. Brigham, '19, assistant, Public library, Oskaloosa, Ia.

ALICE S. TYLER,  
Director.

### Interesting Things in Print

The Public library, St. Paul, Minnesota, has issued a selected list of books in that library on electrical engineering. The list is arranged by subjects.

The Pratt Institute free library *Quarterly Booklist* closed with a special list of "technical and scientific books for boys" prepared in the Institute by the Applied Science department.

The Library of Congress has issued a list of the Washington manuscripts from the year 1592 to 1775. The list was prepared from the original manuscripts in the Library of Congress by J. C. Fitzpatrick, assistant chief of the manuscript division.

The Library of Congress has issued a list of references on the shipping industry under the direction of H. H. B. Myer, chief bibliographer. The value of the pamphlet of more than 300 pages, is greatly enhanced by very comprehensive author and subject indexes.

The Children's bureau at Washington City has issued a compilation of Laws relating to mothers' pensions in United States, Canada, Denmark and New Zealand. The volume of 316 pages was compiled by Laura A. Thompson, librarian of the Children's bureau.

The Library Association (British) has resumed its work on the *Subject Index to Periodicals* and hopes that the library world will resume the interest in it which the war interrupted. Subscriptions received direct by the Library Association, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S. W. I.

*Finance and Industry* for January 31 has a most interesting article on "The public library as a stabilizer," contributed by Miss Linda A. Eastman, librarian of the Public library, Cleveland, Ohio. The article is a presentation of proofs that the public library is a stabilizer, as evidenced by the work of the Cleveland public library.

A very interesting document has been issued by the United States department of agriculture in *Bulletin No. 825*, Con-

tribution from the Bureau of markets, under the title "Rural community buildings in the United States." It gives facts, figures, directions, descriptions, etc.

Lists of books prepared for distribution at the Public library, Evanston, Ill., recently carried the following headings: For the fireside reader, Timely topics, America as seen by the foreign born, House planning and furnishing, Gloom dispellers, Poetry and drama festival, and Minutes between trains.

A debate on Universal military training between Henry L. West and Charles T. Hallinan has been reprinted in full from *The Arbitrator*. Mr West is secretary of the National Security League and Mr Hallinan is the executive secretary of the American Union against Militarism. The reprint, therefore, gives the arguments on both sides of this very important question.

The *Monthly Bulletin* of the Los Angeles public library, January, 1920, consists of a list of magazines and newspapers in that library for 1920. This list includes 750 magazines, and 90 newspapers. The latter represent 54 different cities. The list will be suggestive for those with small funds, who wish to examine an up-to-date list of newspapers and periodicals desirable for library service.

The *Orange Judd Farmer* for February 7 contains a most interesting article under the title, Socrates on wheels. This is an account of how the rural schools in Cass county, Indiana, get books thru the traveling library truck which goes from school to school thruout Cass county which supports a county library. The account is very interesting and again corroborates the value of the work as it has been demonstrated in other places.

There is an article in the *Journal of Electricity* for January on "Business and the Public library in St. Paul." It is written by Dr W. D. Johnson and is devoted chiefly to methods of publicity used in promoting the use of the library among business men.

**Favorite Books of Young Men**

The Navy Department, at Washington, thru a specially appointed committee, attempted some time ago to find out the kind of reading that will appeal most to young men—"the favorite books that young men read." Over 700 young midshipmen entering the Naval academy were asked to give the titles of the two books that each liked best. Their preferences, according to the number of votes, for the first 50 titles, were as follows (in the order given):

- Sea Wolf, Jack London.
- Call of the wild, Jack London.
- Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson.
- Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain.
- Over the top, Arthur Guy Empey.
- Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain.
- When a man's a man, Harold Bell Wright.
- Poems, Rudyard Kipling.
- Two years before the mast, R. H. Dana, Jr.
- The Virginian, Owen Wister.
- Mr Britling sees it through, H. G. Wells.
- The three musketeers, Alexandre Dumas.
- First hundred thousand, Ian Hay.
- Spell of the Yukon, Robert Service.
- Twenty thousand leagues under the sea, Jules Verne.
- Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, A. Conan Doyle.
- The Clansman, Thomas Dixon.
- Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas.
- The Crisis, Winston Churchill.
- The Man without a country, E. E. Hale.
- Ivanhoe, Walter Scott.
- The Four million, O. Henry.
- Tales, Edgar Allan Poe.
- Eyes of the world, Harold Bell Wright.
- The Shepherd of the hills, Harold Bell Wright.
- Last of the Mohicans, J. Fenimore Cooper.
- My four years in Germany, James W. Gerard.
- Penrod, Booth Tarkington.
- Rhymes of a Red Cross man, Robert Service.
- Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come, John Fox, Jr.
- Freckles, Gene Stratton Porter.
- Graustark, George Barr McCutcheon.
- Harvester, Gene Stratton Porter.
- Innocents abroad, Mark Twain.
- Richard Carvel, Winston Churchill.
- Silver horde, Rex Beach.
- Lorna Doone, R. D. Blackmore.
- Tale of two cities, Charles Dickens.
- Winning of Barbara Worth, Harold Bell Wright.

- The Broad highway, Jeffery Farnol.
- The Barrier, Rex Beach.
- David Copperfield, Charles Dickens.
- Luck of Roaring Camp, Bret Harte.
- Burning daylight, Jack London.
- A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Mark Twain.
- The Iron trail, Rex Beach.
- A Man's man, Ian Hay.
- The Ne'er do well, Rex Beach.
- Riders of the Purple Sage, Zane Grey.
- A Sailor's log, Admiral R. D. Evans.
- Les Misérables, Victor Hugo.

**Book Notes**

Who has read every book mentioned by Christopher Morley in "The haunted bookshop"? Few perhaps, but let every librarian read of and rejoice in Roger Mifflin who believes, with Crothers, in the therapeutic value of books, and who advises, "Just give them the book they ought to have, even if they don't know they want it."

**Archibald Marshall**

How many readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES have fallen victim to the charms of Archibald Marshall? If you have not already, try him at once and see if his books do not produce all the desirable sensations supposed to follow the reading of a "glad book," but without any loss of self-respect. He is a living example in our library of how unknown books may be successfully advertised at the loan desk. For months, even years, a few of Marshall's books had stood on our shelves unhonored and uncalled for. Then one by one we discovered him and introduced him to the public with astonishing success. For a time he soothed them for the absence of the old-time favorites, not always so worthy but better advertised. Now he has joined the ranks of those never in, and we must apologize for his absence as we used to for "Mr Britling" or "Over the top."

All of Marshall's girls are so human, so wholesome, and so high-spirited that it is a real tonic to know them. There are as few heroes, heroines or villains in his books as in real life, but

different circumstances bring out the good and bad qualities of his people just as they do in those we know.

The near villain may turn out to be almost a hero or *vice versa*, and appearances are often deceiving. Mrs Conway delights most of our readers as much as she exasperated her family and friends, for in books we suffer fools more gladly than elsewhere. Watermeads is with us the most widely popular of Marshall's books as there seems something in it to appeal to every taste.

Of course we do not claim that Marshall has quite supplanted "Pollyanna" or "The rosary" but we do feel it has been worth trying. Can anyone suggest other authors or single titles which might yield to a little loan desk advertising?

C.

#### Textile industries

The Patent Office of Great Britain is fortunate in possessing a technical library which contains some 150,000 volumes. It is fortunate, again, in having a policy which provides for the printing, from time to time, of subject indexes of the material in the library. The subject list of works on textile industries and wearing apparel, including the culture and chemical technology of textile fibres has now appeared. As might be expected from the patent office library of a country in which the manufacture of textiles has so large a place, its collection of literature in this field is an extremely good one. The user will find listed, in the order of date of publication, not only the choice books on a wide variety of subjects, but also the unusual items, those not obtained through ordinary channels of trade, such as trade catalogs and privately printed pamphlets.

The technology reference librarian will do well to keep in mind these useful subject catalogs, particularly the two earlier publications—the Key to the Classifications of Patent Specifi-

cations (of various foreign countries) and the Guide to the Search Department of the Patent Office Library.

R. J. U.

#### The business library

The Technical Publishing Company of San Francisco, California, has issued one of the best presentations of special library work that is in print. "The business library, what it is and what it does," by Louise B. Krause, is the work of one who has given serious, diligent and open-minded study to the problem of making available to a large business concern, information in print that in any way relates to the business.

The title of the volume, *The business library, what it is and what it does*, tells the story in a way which is neither entirely technical nor entirely abstract. The book discusses the organization, the service that may be rendered, the source of material, the appraisal of certain things, gives enough of the technical processes to make clear their value, names authorities and gives lists of material of publications which she recommends.

The chapter, *The essential qualifications of a business librarian*, is trenchant in its expression, accurate in its statement, and absolutely true in its application. The author stands for established library science. She warns against the thought that it is a simple code summed up in a few text-books, to be readily mastered and improved upon at will. She sums up her argument in five words, "the trained librarian knows how." She names four qualifications as necessary to make a successful business librarian:

A college education or its equivalent.  
A library school education or its equivalent.

Certain innate mental and social traits.  
The business-man's point of view.

The business world which is slowly coming to recognize, perhaps in an indefinite way, that there is a larger value than it has yet recognized in the world of print in relation to its own affairs, may well be grateful to Miss Krause for her little volume.

## Department of School Libraries

## Library Exhibit

At the Southeast Missouri teachers' association conference, which was held at the State Teachers' college, Cape Girardeau, Mo., an excellent library exhibit was installed by the librarian, Miss Sadie T. Kent, with the co-operation of the teachers of the college. Its purpose was to show the relation of the library to the various departments of a school from the lowest to the highest grade.

**Primary.**—Illustrated children's books formed part of the exhibit in this section. To these were added books for the teacher and aids in story telling. Flanking these were the industrial exhibits showing the process of making chocolate; of silk manufacture from the cocoon to thread; cereals from the grain to the patented product. Pictures formed an interesting part of the exhibit with suggested methods of caring for them. The projectoscope was suggested as a means of using the pictures to the best advantage.

**Intermediate.**—The books shown in the intermediate department were those dealing with geographical study, nature study, historical stories and school room drama. Collections of stories and poetry had a place beside memory gems on the shelves. The arts and crafts so interesting in fourth to eighth grades were represented by books illustrated by aids and devices for busy work and rainy day amusements. Lists of firms from which useful material could be secured free were a valuable part of the Intermediate exhibit.

**High-school.**—The relation of the library to the high school department was well illustrated under English, history, and agriculture. In English, three-type studies as found in Ivanhoe, Tale of Two Cities, The Merchant of Venice, were exhibited in outline, accompanied by bibliographies and illustrated pictures. These were supple-

mented by helps and suggestions for debating societies and dramatic clubs. The function of pictures and maps in high schools was shown in relation to texts, collateral reading and reference work.

Pamphlets, magazines and government documents were a valuable part of the exhibition of agricultural reading.

Prominently displayed beside the high school section was a double shelf of beautifully illustrated books representing the most attractive editions of titles recommended for required reading. The tendency of visitors to pick up a favorite title and stand for a moment or two looking at the pictures proved the value of this silent appeal for better editions of the classics to make required reading a joy rather than a mere duty.

**Rural schools.**—The exhibit showed a small collection of ten books adjudged the best for rural teachers, a complete set of the books required by the National Rural Teachers' reading circle, a typical assortment of free government pamphlets especially adapted to rural school work. The Missouri library commission contributed a model library for country schools, showing 51 books in a traveling case, with a sign indicating that a similar library might be borrowed by any rural school teacher making application for it.

The necessity for modern organization for the school library was not forgotten. Methods of cataloging, classification, and book labeling were shown by means of giant cards and notices "that he who runs might read." Off in the rear was a hospital ward, where library books, torn and soiled, were found in various stages of repair, and close at hand an exhibit of mending tools, glue pots, and supplies. Catalogs of the dealers in library supplies were to be had for the taking as well as

much free explanatory literature dealing with libraries.

The center of the room was occupied by three tables; on one was shown a choice collection of catalogs and advertising matter valuable for illustrative work in schools; another showed a suggestive collection of government documents covering nearly every subject taught in the school curriculum; a third contained samples of inexpensive library helps of use to the teacher in caring for a school library. So popular were these tables that constant watchfulness was necessary to prevent their being confused with the tables of free literature, of which samples might be taken away.

### The Relation Between the Library and the Schools

#### a) Why teachers should know the resources of the library

1. The place assigned the public library by general consent is that of an integral part of our system of public and free education.

2. Schools and library, as two branches of one system, must work together. Each in its own field supplements the work of the other.

3. To accomplish this most economically and to the greatest advantage, each must know the activities and possibilities of the other.

#### b) The field of each

1. The school, during a short period of the child's life, within well-defined courses, teaches how to read and, so far as time and course allow, what to read. For most pupils the results are at best meagre. The reading habit and skill in reading are both acquired by much reading and usually only thus. Few children ever learn to read readily—with understanding.

2. The library must supplement the school reading by promoting extensive reading during school years when children are the greatest readers, and thru life. This demands cordial relations and intelligent coöperation between schools and library authorities, between teachers and librarians.

#### c) Help teachers may expect from the Newark library

1. Books which may be borrowed for a month. Cards are issued to non-resident teachers in Newark schools.

2. Magazines. There are 1270 in the library. Extra copies of educational magazines subscribed to for circulation to teachers.

3. Picture collection. Includes 515,000 pictures. Special collections of pictures have been gathered for geography, history, holidays, seasons, birds, flowers, etc.

4. Visual aids. 2000 objects lent by the museum for class room use. Includes models of a log cabin, Indian tepee, medieval castle, Plymouth 1620, dolls in costume, industrial processes, physiological models, minerals, birds, relief maps, etc. A complete catalog is distributed to teachers.

5. Special lists of books on art, sciences or other specific subjects of interest to teachers. Examples: nature study—supplementing books, short stories for reading aloud, stories to tell, books about the American Revolution, etc., for distribution.

6. Books in school rooms: traveling school libraries. The teacher makes the request and chooses the books herself, or the library selects them for her. A library includes from 25 to 40 books, a certain per cent of which usually bear on school work. For aid in the selection of books for schoolroom libraries the Newark library has prepared a list.

7. Reference work at the library. Books, pictures, magazine articles on certain topics given prominence in the school work are temporarily reserved at the library. Examples: chivalry, Newark administrative department, police department, water supply, Greek life, etc.

8. The Lending department contains: a professional library for teachers, including books on methods of teaching all subjects, books for university extension courses and for teachers' promotion examinations; a large collection of economic and political maps which may be used in school

rooms; duplicated copies of poems for class use; a collection of text-books used in Newark and elsewhere; material for use in celebration of all special days; a reference collection of poems, readings and recitations; plays suitable for school use in all the grades; leaflets for class room use for the study of the history, government and industries of Newark.

9. The School department contains a model library of best books for children, for the reference use of teachers and to serve as a basis for the selection of school libraries. It is the business of the assistant in charge of the school and children's department to be informed on all school matters of the city and to further the work of schools and teachers in any way that she can.

**d) What teachers may do for the library**

1. Know what there is in a library for teachers and pupils.

2. Keep the library informed of school work and give early notice of work to come, so that the library may be better prepared to give assistance.

3. Use great care in recommending books for children. There are many lists in the school department to help teachers in the selection of books for children.

4. Give children specific instructions about the subject or book desired when sending them to work at the library. Their wants can then be met more promptly and accurately. They go about the work more intelligently.

5. Teach the care of books belonging to the school as well as to the library. Teach children to use care in opening a new book, never to lay a book face down, or to turn a leaf corner, or mark or underline; to have clean hands. Teach the use of the printed parts of the book, the table of contents, index, etc., correlating it with subjects in the regular course of study. The library has books and pamphlets giving methods of presenting the matter to children.

School and Children's Department,  
The Free Public Library of Newark,  
New Jersey, January, 1920.

**Some Requirements of a School Library**

The New England school library association has adopted the following requirements for a standard high school library:

1. Appropriate housing and equipment. (A room for library use only, with seating capacity of 5 per cent to 10 per cent of daily attendance.)

2. Professionally trained librarian. (A college degree and technical library training.)

3. Scientific selection and care of books and material. (Collections of 3000-8000 books for 500-1000 students.)

4. Instruction in the use of books and libraries. (Minimum of three recitation periods per year.)

5. Adequate annual appropriations for salaries and maintenance.

**Mutual Confidence**

A proof of the progressive spirit which is growing up in the school library circles of Minnesota is found in a recent contract which bears the following sentence:

It is agreed that in all matters, not herein specifically provided for, the parties shall be governed by rules adopted, or hereafter to be adopted, by the Department of Education of the state of Minnesota Library division.

**Better Letters**

A little book of suggestions issued by the Herbert S. Browne Company, Chicago, is really that.

The title indicates its purpose. It is an endeavor to present in a simple, direct and interesting manner the fundamental rules and primary essentials of efficient business correspondence. It is not a "selling" book in the usual acceptance of this term, but rather a handy guide and reference manual for the correspondent, stenographer, or executive, who is attempting to make his own letters direct, forceful, individual, persuasive, grammatical, attractive and efficient for their purpose.

[Some very excellent material for this department was received too late for this issue but will be presented in the next. Material should be sent early. Editor.]

**Library Notes From Portland, Oregon**

Miss Anna Fossler, head of the technical department of the library, has started an embryonic commercial museum in the library. Her plan is this. She invites the manufacturers to send exhibits of their products to the library where they are displayed in glass show cases or on the walls of the lobby. Her object is twofold: to show the people of Portland that Oregon is, not merely an agricultural state, but that it is a rapidly developing industrial state; and to open the eyes of the manufacturers themselves to the most advanced methods of advertising, and to awaken interest in a commercial museum.

Naturally the first exhibit was wool, Portland being second only to Boston as a wool center. This exhibit was displayed in September. There were 11 exhibitors. The display included fleeces, worsted yarn, wool batting, blankets and textiles such as pony cloth and men's suitings.

The ax industry was the subject of the October exhibit. A hand loom was set up and some weaving was done at intervals to show those interested how our great-grandmothers made cloth for the family. This exhibit included everything from the seed to some very delicate gauze-like fabrics of linen.

A timely display of candy gladdened November days. And toys came appropriately in December. In that month there was also a milk exhibit lent by the Dairy council. In connection with that, Miss Fossler made a bibliography of the material in the library on milk and milk products which the Dairy council published and is distributing broadcast.

Brooms and brushes were exhibited in January. This was a large exhibit including the entire gamut of products from broom corn to the finest brooms and brushes.

During February the exhibit is to be rubber and rubber tires. Flour and cereals will be exhibited in March; paper in April; printing arts in May;

and an exhibit of commercial art in June. Miss Fossler's plan has been to make the exhibits as seasonal as possible.

Visitors to the library have commented very favorably on these exhibits. And the president of the Oregon manufacturers association has declared the time ripe for a commercial museum.

The educational extension work planned by Miss Ethel Sawyer, director of the training class, is now well under way. On Jan. 20 she held the first of a series of informal book talks at the Central library, the subject on that occasion being "Desirable Aliens." The next lecture, Feb. 3, was on the "Romance of bookland." The subjects of the lectures to follow in this series are: "Constructive pessimism," "Predestination and optimism" and "Inexpensive chair car journeys."

At the request of the city editor of the *Morning Oregonian* Miss Sawyer writes a column of book notes and gossip of the literary world for the Sunday issue under the caption, "The Literary Periscope."

Miss Lutie Sterns was a guest of the library staff one evening on her recent lecture tour in the west. She talked to the staff on library service as it should be and outlined her ideals of extension work for libraries. After refreshments were served Miss Sterns further enlivened the gathering by proposing a community sing which she led with great spirit.

In addition to its regular monthly meetings, the staff is holding this winter, a series of informal book meetings. The January book meeting was in the hands of the school department. After a brief discussion of the teachers' reading circle books the hour was given over to a discussion of mental tests. To introduce this appropriately a test was held then and there. Ten members of the staff were rated excellent and 25 passed with good standing. Following this Miss Alma Johnson, Jefferson high school librarian, outlined the Binet and Stanford tests,

and Miss Pearl Durst, librarian of Lincoln high school, discussed the standard tests in arithmetic and other subjects. Then Miss Elizabeth Herrington, librarian of Washington high school and formerly camp librarian at Vancouver barracks, told of tests in the army and commercial tests. Miss Edith Steele then gave some points against tests. Finally Miss Anne Mulheron, head of the school department, described the test she took for admission into war service and gave her observations of army tests as she saw them in operation.

#### A New Field for Discoverers

The State library of Arizona has recently moved into new quarters and the state librarian in speaking of it says:

There is room enough now for nearly one-third of the books in the library, that is, for about 40,000v., leaving only 75,000v. and 75,000 pamphlets nailed up in packing boxes that are stored in every spare niche of the building. The volumes and pamphlets that are stored away are not accessible, altho indexes of them are kept. The 40,000 volumes on the shelves are ready for immediate use. No practical means for classifying books in boxes have been worked out, by any library in the country, so that for the present the whole field of discovery of means of using them is open to the librarian.

#### Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

The rector of Calvary church, Pittsburgh, had a Library night at a recent Sunday evening service. The suggestion came from the rector, the Rev Edwin J. Van Etten, and all library workers in the city were invited to be present.

In his sermon Mr Van Etten said "the great function of the library is its contribution to the quality of the city's life." The librarians present felt the scope of the library's work was most admirably presented. After the serv-

ice there was an informal gathering in the parish house where brief remarks were made by Mr Leete, Director of the library, Mr Robert Garland, one of the trustees and Miss Endicott, librarian of the East Liberty branch.

The City Council of Pittsburgh has given the library the largest appropriation in its history. Added funds have been devoted principally to the purpose of increasing salaries.

#### A Fine Spirit

Dr Herbert Putnam, the librarian of the great American institution, the Congressional library, is intensely human. This was shown in his testimony before the House appropriations committee when the fact was brought out that other places were paying their municipal librarians a much larger salary than Congress pays its world-famous librarian.

I have felt diffident, Dr. Putnam said, about permitting any question to be raised concerning my salary for two reasons. One is I know of so many men in government service holding enormously responsible positions and doing superb work in them, who are receiving no more than I. The other reason is I am pretty closely associated with more than 400 people in my work who are having a very hard struggle to get along. . . . As long as that condition exists I shall feel that I should hesitate in coming before this committee and taking up the question of having my salary raised.

In appreciation of more than 20 years of upbuilding service, the committee voted him an increase in salary.  
—*Chicago Journal*.

#### Special Libraries Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Special Librarians association will be held in New York City, April 14-17, 1920.

#### American Library Institute

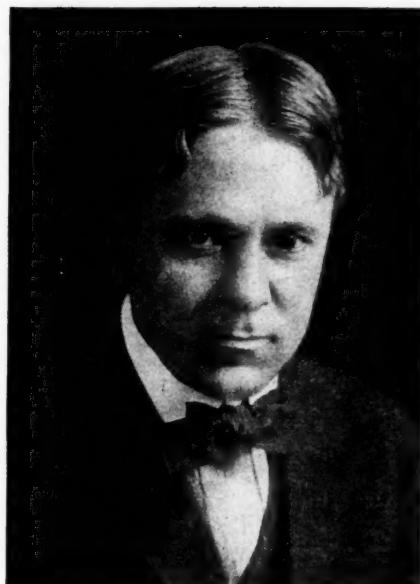
Plans are being formed by Dr E. C. Richardson and Mr Keough for a meeting of the American Library Institute at Atlantic City on the occasion of the A. L. A. meeting there, April 30-May 1-2, 1920.

### Changes at the Newberry Library

The Newberry library of Chicago devoted to history, literature and *belles lettres* generally, is a remarkable selection of collections and one that is, in a way, monumental. It was the gift of Walter Loomis Newberry to the city of Chicago in 1887 and was organized and well started on its way by the lamented Dr W. F. Poole who was its first librarian. The trustees have always been men who have had time and taste to devote to the acquisition of material suited to that kind of a library, and, when the invested funds of the library have made it possible to search out and acquire desirable material, they have given much thought and labor to making the collections as complete and valuable in the library's special field as possible. Scholars from all over the country and, indeed, from beyond the seas consult its shelves for material which is not accessible elsewhere. A beautiful building on the North Side houses the collection of something more than 300,000 volumes.



George B. Utley



W. N. C. Carlton

For a considerable period after the death of Dr Poole in 1894, the financial stress of the times hampered somewhat the activities of the library and during this time, when John Vance Cheney was librarian, the library did little more than arrange to an advantage, its valuable collections, tho in that period, some notable things were obtained from China.

W. N. C. Carlton went to the Newberry library as librarian in 1909. Under his direction, the library was thoroughly reorganized in all its parts and a new era of usefulness began for it. To the regret of the trustees, and his friends in local library circles, Mr Carlton severed his connection with the Newberry library in December, 1919, to enter business in New York City.

The trustees began immediately to look for a successor to Mr Carlton and a number of librarians were carefully considered. For reasons which moved them to action, Mr George B. Utley was their choice and he was named as librarian, March 1. Mr Utley needs no

introduction thru a library periodical, and it may be said in closing, that his decision to accept the position gives great pleasure to the library circles and his many personal friends in the Middle-West. Mr Utley's duties begin at the Newberry library, April 15.

M. E. A.

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### Bird House Exhibition in Library

For three years the Greendale branch library in Worcester, Mass., has held a Bird House exhibition in March. This exhibition is open to all boys and girls in the grammar school grades, the only requirement for the entry of a house being that the child, girl or boy, make the house without any material aid from anyone.

The houses, as they are brought in, are labeled with school grade of the owner, and placed on the top of the low book shelves in the children's department. We find that having the exhibition in the children's department rather than in a separate room brings it to the attention of many of the boys and girls who would have given little heed to the announcement which we send to all the schools. Our library being a small one, the adults coming in can readily see the exhibition, and their enthusiasm is always a big factor in making the contest worth while.

At the close of the exhibition the houses are judged, a prize (a book about birds), given for the best one, and honorable mention for the second best. It might be interesting to note that the first prize went to a little girl one year. The judges, outside-the-library men, are very critical. One, a carpenter, judges the workmanship in the houses. The other, a young man of this vicinity who has made quite a study of birds, judges the houses from the naturalist's viewpoint. The first year in which we held the exhibition we felt that they made little allowance for the youth of the contestants, but we find

that because of their severity in judgment, the quality of the houses entered improves each year. After the judging, snapshots of the children with their houses are taken.

All our material on birds and bird-houses is placed where the children have easy access to it. Any pictures of birdhouses which might be suggestive of good types are cut out and mounted. The judges have several times refused consideration to a very attractive looking house because of its impracticability. Knowing this, the children study the habits of the different birds and plan their houses with careful attention to details, material, size, color, etc.

The benefits derived from this annual exhibition are many. It has taught many of the children to make practical use of their technical books, and it has been the means of interesting many in nature who up to this time have been little interested in out of doors. This last was clearly shown. We had repeated requests from the members of both our boys and girls clubs for bird walks, 40 and 50 attending each one we conducted. Some of our young naturalists have learned at least a few principles of carpentry. All the children, boys and girls alike, have had to develop accuracy and attention to detail.

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### Minnesota Committee on Certification of Librarians

Miss Miriam E. Carey, president of the Minnesota library association, has appointed the following committee to consider and report at the next meeting of the association on certification and standardization of librarians:

Chairman, Miss Harriet A. Wood, State department of education; Miss Farr, Mankato normal school library; Miss Goss, University of Minnesota library; Miss Hutchinson, Minneapolis public library; Mrs Jennings, St. Paul public library; Mrs Lamb, Litchfield public library.

## News from the Field

## East

Mrs Carrie R. Brogdon, librarian of the Public library, Kennebunk, Maine, died February 2.

The report of the Lithgow library, Augusta, Maine, records number of books on shelves, 13,959; circulation, 34,272, of which 4,491 were non-fiction.

Miss Margaret S. Locke, Boston U., '11, and a graduate of the Springfield training class, has been promoted to the associate librarianship of the college of business administration of Boston University. Miss Locke has been assistant librarian since 1917 and was acting librarian while the librarian was in France.

Richard Bliss, who was librarian of Redwood library, Newport, Rhode Island, died at his home in that city, January 7. Mr Bliss retired from the library in 1914. He was a member of a number of scientific societies and a bibliographer of more than ordinary scope. He was 78 years old at the time of his death.

The annual report of the Public library of Somerville, Massachusetts, records a circulation for 1919, of 507,298v., an increase of 43 per cent; 118,969v. on the shelves; 508 current periodicals. Somerville spent 40 $\frac{3}{4}$  per capita for library privileges, at a cost of nine and one-half cents per book circulated.

The annual report of the Massachusetts Agricultural College library at Amherst for 1919, records number of volumes on shelves, 61,439, number of volumes lent for home use, 7,444. This last number does not include pamphlets, maps, etc., or reserve books loaned out over night, or used in the library. Receipts for the year, \$7,761; number of newspapers and periodicals currently received, 698. A considerable number of books were lent in the library extension work in the inter-library loan service.

The Public library of Worcester, Massachusetts, has a series of community libraries as well as deposit stations, all of which extend greatly the service of the library in sections remote from the main buildings. School room libraries, fire stations, boys clubs, homes for the dependents and factories, of which Worcester has an unusual amount, are used for deposit stations. The collections are changed as frequently as seems desirable and special requests from any of these stations are supplied as promptly as possible.

The College of Business Administration library at Boston university conducted a "give-a-book" campaign during January and February. Letters were written to graduates and undergraduates, faculty and trustees. Posters, announcements in classes, student organizations and other means were used to bring the campaign to the attention of all interested. Members of the Board of Guarantors, all active business men in Boston, responded generously. As a result, nearly 1,000 extra feet of shelving has been installed in the main reading and the periodical rooms to care for the new volumes. Every book was carefully selected and a sum of money was received to be expended by the librarian in purchasing books.

Other alterations included a raised platform for the reference staff, new catalog cases, map cabinet, revolving stands, etc. Nearly 3,500 students are enrolled in this department of the university and the seating capacity of the library was increased by facilities for 80 additional readers.

The files of the *Public Affairs Information Service* for 1919 were recently purchased and installed in the vertical files. The total weight was a ton and a quarter—one-third of which was retained and filed. There are 200 technical publications received regularly in the business administration library and telephone service is extended to Boston business men as usual.

## Central Atlantic

Mrs Grace H. Birdsall, Pratt '95, has been appointed librarian of the Eastern department U. S. A. headquarters at Governors Island.

Lillian J. Callahan, N. Y. S. '10, until recently librarian of the Levi Haywood memorial library, Gardner, Mass., has succeeded Miss Cudébec as librarian of the Free library, Albany, N. Y.

Ralf P. Emerson, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '16, is organizing The library of the Silver Bay, Lake George, N. Y., Association.

The report of the Public library of New Rochelle, New York, records a circulation for home use of 151,753v. Reference questions requiring research, 43,211. Books added to the library, 4,471; number of books on the shelves, 45,403.

Effie L. Power has resigned her position as head of the children's department, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh and member of the faculty of the Carnegie library school. Her resignation becomes effective March 1.

The City library of Kingston, New York, records a circulation of 53,595v, a considerable increase over last year. There was 60 per cent of this fiction. The reading rooms were visited by 24,648 persons. Books on the shelves, 9,541.

Alice L. Jewett, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '14, has resigned as registrar of the New York State college for teachers, Albany, to become assistant editor of the *Public Affairs Information Service Bulletin*, published by the H. W. Wilson Co., New York City.

The 1919 annual report of the Public library of Nutley, New Jersey, shows a circulation of 60,108 books for home use, an increase of 13,638 over the previous year; books on the shelves, 7,835. Total number of card holders, 4,091, of which 547 are new borrowers.

The annual report of the Public library of Syracuse, New York, records a cir-

culation of 694,376v. thru 71 agencies. Number of volumes on shelves, 150,463. Number of borrowers, 48,409; number of readers in the library, 185,547. Population of the city, 160,000. Income, \$67,334; expenditures—books, \$10,628; library service, \$43,728; janitor service, \$6,996.

The report of the Public library of Utica, New York, gives the circulation 399,383v., an increase of more than 33 per cent over the previous year. Reference department was used by 49,816 adults, and over 12,500 research questions were answered. Every department has found itself too busy to do its best work and the opportunities of usefulness have been limited by the number of workers because of limited appropriations. There were 16 changes upon the staff during the year. The circulation among the children increased 60,000 in the past year. City appropriation, \$43,866; from invested funds, \$2,224. Expenditures: staff, \$26,846; janitors, \$3,995; books, \$4,210; binding, \$3,028.

The report of the Public library of Binghamton, New York, for 1919 records the following: Receipts for the year, \$16,254; expenditures, \$16,233; salaries and labor, \$10,051; books, \$3,480; binding, \$1,044. Recorded use of books, 215,924; seven exhibitions were given and the lecture course included 292 numbers. About 103½ columns of matter relating to the library appeared in the newspapers; there were 5,308 lantern slides borrowed from the State department of education. These were used in 75 lectures. Special effort has been made to meet the needs of the new Americans learning English. The library has been largely used for classes in English, civics and study of Naturalization.

The Free library of Philadelphia reports that the number of books issued for home use, in 1918, amounted to 3,135,297 v., and that the visitors to the reading rooms, during the year, numbered 1,747,382 persons.

The amount spent for books, periodicals and binding was \$83,213.07, and \$248,255.72 was spent for salaries.

On December 31, 1918, the library contained 551,586 v. and 285,554 pamphlets.

Two new branches have been opened, the Logan branch and the Kingsessing branch, and it is expected that work on the Main library building, which has been delayed thru litigation and on account of the war, will be resumed shortly. The system now consists of the Main library, at Thirteenth and Locust Streets, and 28 branches.

Notwithstanding the coal famine during the early part of the year, and the epidemic of influenza during the latter part, not one of the library's buildings was closed for a single day.

The report of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1919 enumerates the handicaps under which the library labored, resulting in a decreased accession and circulation. On the other hand, reference use of the library increased wonderfully, while the wider knowledge of the service which the library was able to render the government is a very valuable accretion. Without the assistance of the library much of the investigation which was necessary would have been impossible. The prompt response of the librarian to the demands on it brought earnest words of commendation.

The material of the library, books and pamphlets, numbered 150,149v. In addition to the reference use of the library 68,393 books and pamphlets and 195,000 numbers of current periodicals were circulated. Important bibliographical projects undertaken during the year were the "Index to the literature of American economic entomology, 1915-1919," compiled by Miss Mabel Colcord, librarian of the Bureau of entomology and the "Check list of the publications of the Department of Agriculture on phytopathology," prepared by the library of the Bureau of plant industry. The Bureau of Markets library prepared a supplement to the extensive "Select list of publications on the marketing of farm products."

The Department of Agriculture occupies a commanding position in the scientific world. The aim of the library is to command in its special field of work, also, by reason of its collections and the scope of its service. The report closes with a plea for permanent, suitable, safe and adequate quarters for the National Agriculture library and its invaluable collections.

At the Pratt Institute free library, the year suffered from the hazards of war in diminished staff and war-born distractions which lessened operating power and increased operating labor and responsibility.

The librarian concluded his services at Camp Merritt which had covered nearly a year. The children's librarian resigned from the Pratt library to engage in A. L. A. war service. Others of the staff participated in camp and hospital activities, severely depleting the home forces.

The War Work campaign was entered into energetically. The quota raised by the students of Pratt institute was exceeded by only one educational institution in the borough.

The circulation of books which is always observed as symptomatic of the functioning of a library's organism, notwithstanding the epidemic of the time, showed the persistence of the call for books whatever disturbances arise, in a total scarcely less than that of the year previous.

A project for bringing the rich material of the Art reference room into the notice of the general visitor by setting up show cases in the lower halls, has had a beginning. A changing exhibit of plates and photographs now continue thruout the year at the foot of the main staircase, with monthly variations.

In the Applied Science department the work has been conspicuous in the wide reach of its influence. Technical bibliographies for libraries, commissions and commercial interests have been in unusual demand; the Government and A. L. A. War Service have been actively assisted in their compilations.

tions; while the call for the annual list of technical books has been literally world-wide.

The work with the children has been handicapped by the later withdrawal of the children's librarian. Momentum has been lost, but the new formation in the children's room is setting a brisk pace.

In completing the dictionary catalog after five years of revision and transformation a real triumph has been achieved; while the regretted abandonment of the accession book is eloquent of the exigencies of the time.

In facing the post-war crisis, the Pratt Institute free library is determined to move in the line of progress, but will be cautious to avoid revolutionary and extreme tendencies, preserving the historic benefits and upholding the traditional ideals which have made a nation of the American people. And still further the Library hopes to make a contribution to the fellowship of nations and to the brotherhood of the English speaking peoples of the world.

Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., who has been librarian of the Municipal Reference branch of the New York public library since May 1, 1918, resigned in February to undertake the organization of a research bureau for the Packard Motor Truck Company, Detroit, Mich.

Miss Rebecca B. Rankin, who has been assistant librarian of the Municipal reference branch of the New York public library since January, 1919, was promoted to librarian beginning February 15, 1920.

#### Central

Margaret Fullerton, Pratt '10, has been made librarian of the Lake Division of the American Red Cross, with headquarters at Cleveland.

Elizabeth McMullen, N. Y. S., '15-16, resigned as librarian of the Public library, Elwood, Ind., to become assistant in the Iowa State Agricultural College library at Ames.

Grace Shellenberger has resigned her position as librarian of Kewanee,

Ill., to succeed Grace D. Rose as librarian of the Public library, Davenport, Ia. Miss Rose becomes librarian of the Public library, Davenport.

The statistics for the use of the Public library of Grand Rapids, Michigan, record a circulation for 1919 of 557,920v.; readers, 572,951; visitors to exhibitions, 22,370; cards in force, 28,532; new books added, 11,900; books on the shelves, 198,813. Total of all records of service, 1,187,250.

Maude E. Allen, N. Y. S. '15-16, has resigned as library inspector of Michigan normal schools to accept a position with the Detroit Board of Education.

The Public library of Hoopeston, Illinois, has received two gifts, one of \$500 from the late Dana Sherrill, and one of \$2,500 from the late Major A. H. Trego. A drive for \$2,000 instituted by the librarian, Miss Ellen True, for the benefit of the library, amounts at this time to \$1,235.

A civil service examination for senior branch librarians (residence requirements waived) will be given by the Civil Service commission of St. Paul, Minnesota, March 16, 1920. In addition to the examination at St. Paul, special arrangements will be made for non-resident applicants. Further information and blanks will be forwarded on application to the Civil Service commission, St. Paul, Minn.

The report of the Public library of Evansville, Indiana, for 1919, records a circulation for the year of 427,129v., a gain of 88,000v. over the previous year. The circulation was made from 54,500 books, of which 8,000 were bought during the year. The need for a central library building is emphasized in the report.

The city of Cleveland has obtained control of a strip of land 56½ ft. wide and 186 ft. deep, immediately east of the new public library site. This property was acquired in order to avoid its passing into other hands and its possession was necessary to provide light and ventilation on the east side.

of the library building. It is probable that a thoroughfare will be established in the final plans of the city group plan.

The report of the Public library of East St. Louis, Illinois, records a circulation last year of 94,000, with 31,462 on the shelves. An appeal is made by the librarian for a new building, in a different locality, with a view to doing more effective work, as the surroundings of the present building have changed in the years since it was built, to the detriment of the service.

The staff of the Indianapolis public library is evincing much enthusiasm for the staff conferences which are being held twice a month. The conferences offer a chance for hearing local speakers, for a more intimate understanding on the part of each member of the staff of the work of the various departments and for the furthering of better staff spirit. A recent talk by the head of the book department of one of the large department stores was enthusiastically received and much enjoyed in retrospect.

A fine for overdue books, which was raised to 2c some time ago in the Public library of Tomah, Wisconsin, has been reduced to the original fine of 1c a day. Children under high school grade have been limited to the afternoon exchange of books, thus keeping the evening hours free for work with the students and adult reading public.

A review of Hichen's Mrs. Marden was given by the librarian before a club of 100 members. It created such a demand that the library at the present time is unable to meet it.

The Minneapolis public library has felt the necessity, thru decrease in appropriations for the conduct of its libraries, to close a number of its branches. When this announcement was made commercial clubs, high schools, societies, settlements, etc., began holding meetings to protest and at the present time it seems likely the action of the city authorities will be revised.

David Sheean, who was president of

the board of directors of the Public library of Galena, Illinois, for 24 years, died January 27. Mr. Sheean was an ardent supporter of the work of the library and attested his faith in it as a useful institution by leaving \$10,000 for its work. He took great pride in the fact that his library card was No. 1. The Galena public library has suffered the loss by death of four of its directors in the last nine months.

The Women's club of Evanston, Illinois, opened its beautiful and extensive quarters on February 3, and invited the community to a library day. The guest of honor of the time was the new librarian, Miss Ida F. Wright, who recently became librarian there. A most admirable address by Dr E. A. Steiner of Grinnell college, Iowa, gave great delight to the audience. Already Miss Wright has begun to impress her very fine library spirit on the Evanston public library, which will doubtless continue to be one of the forces for helpfulness in that community.

The report of the City librarian of St. Paul, Minn., for 1919 shows that the library passed the million mark in the number of volumes issued for home use for the first time in its history. Comparison with the use of libraries in other cities shows that altho the city is twenty-seventh in size it is now nineteenth in the number of books circulated and fifth in the number of volumes circulated per capita. The only cities which surpass the St. Paul record are Los Angeles, Portland, Louisville, and Queensborough.

Comparison with the record of the library for previous years shows that the circulation has increased 132 per cent since 1915.

A group of five men, ranging from 91 to 67 years, sat at a birthday luncheon on January 30 and decided that "age is but a state of mind, and we are not citizens of that state." The occasion was in honor of James K. Hosmer, formerly public librarian of Minneapolis, to celebrate Mr. Hosmer's eighty-sixth birthday. The

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other four men were prominent citizens. One had been commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., Mr Eli Torrance; General Andrews, the only surviving general of the Civil war was one of the first graduates of Harvard; Dr W. W. Folwell, first president of the University of Minnesota and Dr M. D. Shutter, pastor of one of the largest churches in the city. The occasion was reported as being one of extreme pleasure.

#### South

Katherine Searcy, for some time connected with the Public library of Gary, Indiana, began work in her new position as librarian of the Public library of Waco, Texas, on January 15.

A bill to provide a library commission has been introduced into the legislature of South Carolina. It follows the general lines of bills of the kind in other states.

Mr Frank Kavanaugh, for 28 years state librarian of Kentucky, has been displaced from that office by the election of Mrs Grace G. Hendricks, of Winchester.

The Oklahoma historical society recently presented a silver loving cup to the custodian of the historical material of the Oklahoma historical society, Mr W. P. Campbell.

A report of the Public library of El Paso, Texas, which has been carrying on a campaign of publicity thru the Chamber of Commerce, states that the problem is not now to bring more business men to the library, but to find enough books for those who do come. A branch has been opened in the largest department store, and placed in charge of their educational director. It serves 400 employees.

An increase of \$14,500 in the appropriation was granted April, 1919. The circulation has increased in quality, as well as quantity, the children's department practically created, school libraries established and the staff increased from four members to nine. The ref-

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The building is to be largely extended, a special feature being two open air reading rooms, one for the adults and one for the children.

#### West

The first annual report of the North Dakota Board of Administration, the department which under present law looks after all educational interests, has been issued. This report includes a 30 page brief survey of the work of the Library commission of North Dakota.

The Public library of Leavenworth, Kansas, is trying the plan of special quarterly reports to the superintendent of schools of that city of the number of pupils enrolled in each room that use the library, the number of actual borrowers, and the number of books circulated from the school box. The plan is creating increased interest up to the present.

Saturday, February 1, was set aside as library Sunday in Helena, Montana. The clergy of the city brought to the attention of their congregations the value of the public library, and of its place in the community. The following week there was an increase of tax levy to be voted on, and it was hoped that the vote would be affirmative, which would prevent the necessity of the city library from closing its doors.

#### Pacific Coast

Elizabeth M. Phillips, for the past three years assistant librarian of the Southern branch of the University of

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California, Los Angeles, was married on January 21, 1920, to Sabin Brown Sturtevant, of Los Angeles.

Rosa M. Leeper for 17 years, librarian of the Public library at Dallas, Texas, has located in Pasadena, California, as a consulting librarian. In a circular letter sent out to possible clients Miss Leeper offers her service to any user of books, either in public or private connections, or to individuals who wish such service as she proposes to render.

#### Canada

The report of the Alberta Women's Institutes' traveling library shows a very active and valuable use of their material. This library material is somewhat unlike most traveling libraries in that it consists of clippings from authentic magazines, bulletins and reference books, on all subjects of interest to women. There is a great demand for the material thruout the province, particularly for women investigating and reporting on present conditions. It may be obtained by any woman in the province upon request and kept for a period of two weeks. The outgoing postage is paid by the institute.

A Women's Institute library consists of from 30 to 35 books of good fiction. These are sent out to members of the institute for a small fee after the manner of traveling libraries in the United States.

The report of the Public library of Toronto for the year 1919 opens with a tribute to Mr Carnegie in the matter of his giving funds for library buildings. The circulation of books thruout the library system for the year was 1,369,180. This does not include the books or periodicals used in the libraries. There are 325,000 books on the shelves, of which 92,000 are in the reference library; 25,886 v. were added to the library.

Appreciation of the presence of the library school held by the Department of Education in Toronto is expressed. The rise in preparation for library service has carried a corresponding rise in pay.

A very pertinent observation is made with regard to the judgment of government officials on what is termed "dangerous literature." "Librarians will welcome the censorship if it is intelligent and if they can be informed, as they never have been yet, of the literature that has been proscribed."

#### Foreign

The annual report of the Public libraries of the city and county Borough of Belfast, Ireland, records a total issue from all departments of 666,755 v., an increase of nearly 11,000 over the previous year; number of borrowers, 25,133. The library was closed both for the epidemic and the strike periods. This decreased statistics.

In December, 1917, the set of the Irish Parliament, covering the period 1310-1800, in 20 volumes, was transferred from the library to the city hall.

There was a total of 11 who enlisted from the various departments of the library during the war. One of the members is still a prisoner in Germany, one received a commission; several were wounded, and one was killed. The experiment of employing girls in place of boys in the library has proven very satisfactory so far.

Henry V. Hopwood, librarian of the Patent office library, England, died December 5 from pneumonia. Mr Hopwood's very valuable work in organizing the material of the English Patent office library won for him the respect and gratitude of a large number of technical librarians who were considerably helped by the subject lists which he prepared and issued from time to time.

Those who attended the Brussels conference of 1910 will recall that he was the English interpreter of the papers presented on technical subjects at that convention. American librarians who have had the pleasure of meeting Mr Hopwood at the foreign library meetings and in his own office, carry very pleasant recollections of his courtesy and kindness to the strangers at those meetings. A review of his list is to be found on page 159.